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THE INDEPENDENT

Wednesday 20 May 1998 45p (IR50p) No 3,615 ★

Cook misled MPs on arms to Africa

By Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

ROBIN Cook misled the House of Commons last week about the Sandline affair, it was revealed last night, when it emerged that MI6 alerted officials to the sanctions-busting months ago.

In a planted Parliamentary answer last night Mr Cook made the damaging admission that five intelligence reports seen by officials at the Foreign Office linked Sandline with the supply of arms or military equipment to Sierra Leone.

Last night both main opposition parties demanded that the Foreign Secretary should come to the House of Commons in person to explain himself.

Only last Tuesday, Mr Cook had assured MPs: "At no stage over the past months was any intelligence passed to ministers or officials that suggested a breach of the arms embargo."

The disclosure shows just how much information was withheld from ministers by senior officials over the affair and also underlines just how deeply involved and well-briefed MI6 was about it. But it will also be politically embarrassing for Mr Cook.

The Independent understands that the five reports were sent to the Foreign Office after the beginning of February. It is likely they were seen by officials on the equatorial-Africa desk.

The confirmation that MI6 knew about Sandline's activities does raise questions about how the service handled the information and why it was apparently missing from the intelligence digests it prepares for ministers.

Last Thursday the Permanent Secretary of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Sir John Kerr, told MPs that he knew six weeks ago of allegations that his staff colluded in the shipment of arms to the exiled President Kabbah. He did not tell the Foreign Secretary, he added, because it was a "housekeeping matter" and Mr Cook was busy. Mr Cook only found out at the end of April when he received a letter from Sandline's solicitors.

Officials said last night that the Foreign Secretary had taken the first possible opportunity to correct the misleading impression that he had inadvertently given.

In his reply to Charles Clarke, Labour MP for Norwich South, he said Sir Thomas Legg's independent inquiry into the affair would have access to intelligence reports as well as to all other official documents referring to Sandline. The newly discovered reports were written and delivered between 8 October last year, when the UN passed a resolution banning arms to Sierra Leone, and 0 March this year, when a Customs & Excise investigation began.

"We are aware of five intelligence reports ... which refer to Sandline, or companies associated with Sandline, and to the supply of arms or military equipment. They were seen by officials but not by ministers," Mr Cook's reply said.

Michael Howard, Shadow Foreign Secretary, said the answer clearly showed that Mr Cook had misled MPs. "He should therefore come to the House and apologise at the earliest opportunity," he said.

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesman, said the mistake should be rectified immediately.

"This written answer only serves to add to the confusion and speculation of the last two weeks. Mr Cook will almost certainly have to come to the House of Commons to explain this apparent discrepancy," he said.

It seems Mr Cook only found out about the intelligence reports after he answered a Conservative-sponsored debate on the issue on Monday. Mr Clarke's question was put down on Monday evening for answer yesterday.

The official code of conduct for ministers says it is of "paramount importance" that they give accurate and truthful information to Parliament and that they correct any error at the earliest opportunity.

However, there is no reason to suspect that Mr Cook knowingly misled the House – a clear resigning matter.

Inside
'What we did in Sierra Leone was designed for the good of the country'
Tim Spicer, page 2

Saudi nurses to be freed with pardon

By Diana Blamires

THE two British nurses jailed in Saudi Arabia after the murder of a colleague are to be freed with a pardon by King Fahd.

The Saudi ambassador to Britain, Dr Ghazi Algosaibi, said Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry, jailed after the murder of Yvonne Gilford in 1996, should be home in two days.

Ms Parry was reported as having been sentenced to death, although that was never confirmed by the Foreign Office. Ms McLauchlan was sentenced to receive 500 lashes and eight years in prison. In her case the lashes were not administered.

In a statement last night the ambassador said: "In response to a petition from the families of the two British nurses convicted of murder in Saudi Arabia, the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz, issued an order commuting the sentence of the two nurses to the period they have already spent in jail and ordering their release.

"According to the judicial laws of Saudi Arabia when the next of kin in a murder case waives the right to retribution, the court can impose a discretionary jail sentence which the king can commute. This is what happened in this case. I expect the two nurses to be back in the UK in the next couple of days."

Rodger Pannone, a solicitor for Deborah Parry, said: "We are absolutely delighted."

A source close to the Parry family said: "Tony Blair's endorsement of the family's plea for clemency in Saudi Arabia made a big difference."

Peter Watson, solicitor for the McLauchlan family, added: "The entire team would like to thank the British media for the tremendous support they have given and the sensitive treatment of this case."

Lawyer Stephen Jakobi, of Fair Trials Abroad, which lobbied for the nurses to be allowed legal representation, said: "The two governments and those responsible for reaching this solution must be congratulated. It is a diplomatic coup."

Ms McLauchlan, 32, from Dundee, and Ms Parry, 39, from Alton, Hampshire, were charged with Australian Miss Gilford's murder on 24 December 1996. The Saudis said they confessed to the killing, but the pair withdrew the confessions, claiming they were made under duress.

The dead woman's brother, Frank Gilford, at first insisted on exercising his right under Saudi law to enforce the death penalty, but later agreed to waive it.

Parry (left) and McLauchlan: 'Home in two days'

The Rev Ian Paisley, Democratic Unionist leader, exhorts the crowd at a fair in Ballyclare to vote 'No' in Friday's referendum *Doubters jeopardise 'Yes' vote, page 6* Photograph: Reuters

UK goes back to nuclear age

By Michael Harrison and Colin Brown

THE Government is being urged to restart Britain's nuclear power programme three years after plans to build any further stations were abandoned on cost grounds.

British Energy, the privatised nuclear generator, has told ministers that they may have no option if Britain is to meet its target for cutting greenhouse gases.

The move, which has astonished Whitehall officials, comes as ministers prepare to meet electricity generators to thrash out a deal to save the coal industry from extinction at the hands of nuclear and gas-fired power stations.

Building a new generation of nuclear stations would almost certainly mean higher electricity prices as it is unlikely that the Government would agree to any public subsidy.

Several ministers are understood to have given British Energy a sympathetic hearing. However, a core group of Cabinet ministers, led by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott and the President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, are likely to baulk at anything which could seal the fate of Britain's remaining 23 deep coalmines.

The safety of nuclear energy is another concern. Matthew Taylor, Liberal Democrat environment spokesman, said: "The safety issues have still not been resolved, and every study has concluded it is not financially viable, once you take into account the costs of decommissioning."

British Energy has eight nuclear stations, the first of which, Hinkley Point B and Hunterston B, will start being decomissioned in 2011. But the company has told ministers that decisions on the role to be played by nuclear power in Britain's energy policy will need to be taken long before then as it could take 10 years to construct more nuclear capacity.

Next month the Government will announce the results of a six-month review into how future electricity demand will be met. The energy review was launched just before Christmas as a way of throwing a lifeline to the coal industry, which is facing the threat of seven to eight pit closures and the loss of 6,000 jobs. But the bigger problem ministers are grappling with is how to prevent Britain from becoming dependent on gas to fulfil as much as 90 per cent of its energy needs by 2020.

John Battle, the Energy Minister, told a coal industry conference yesterday that it was right to question whether Britain could be comfortable with a "mono-fuel source future" in which it could be dependent for some of its gas supplies on volatile countries such as Russia and Algeria.

British Energy's chief executive Peter Hollins said yesterday that nuclear power had a vital role to play in the future: "The only reason that the UK has met its Kyoto targets is because of the contribution of nuclear power. If Britain is to take its greenhouse gas targets seriously, then nuclear power has got to have a significant role in future energy generation."

Dounreay shake-up, page 8
Business Outlook, page 23

Gazza drinks in the last-chance saloon

By Clive White

NOT FOR the first time, though just possibly for the last, Paul Gascoigne's off-field activities consumed about 90 per cent of England's press conference yesterday.

The World Cup finals are just around the corner and Saudi Arabia will play the role of warm-up opponents at Wembley on Saturday.

But at a time when England's finest should be aiming for a peak of mental and physical fitness, Gazza has been spotted out on the town in the past week enjoying a bevy or two with his celebrity friends Rod Stewart and Chris Evans, and, apparently, looking rather the worse for wear because of it.

Coming on top of recent revelations about the player's smoking habits, these latest incidents were almost too much to bear for the England coach, Glenn Hoddle, and he duly issued Gascoigne with what smacked of a final warning.

"He's disappointed me," said Hoddle. "I've told him that and he's apologised. He knows what the next stage is."

The deadline for Gascoigne may well be 2 June, when Hoddle must tell eight players among his squad of 30 that they are not required for the finals in France.

Hoddle conceded that Gascoigne was only 60 per cent fit and that the footballer's lifestyle of smoking, drinking and late-night kebabs, as much as his recent injuries, was the cause.

He refused to accept that Gascoigne, due to his fame and reputation, was under any more pressure than other players who were in the spotlight, and he singled out David Beckham, who is engaged to Victoria Adams, one of the Spice Girls, as an example.

Apologetic as he may have been to his manager, Gascoigne appeared unrepentant. "I never let anybody down when I put on an England shirt," he said. "What I do outside of the game, that's my problem."

New yobbocracy, page 3
Hoddle's riot act, page 32

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Today's news

Indonesia braced for more

INDONESIA faces another round of explosive demonstrations today after a nationwide address in which President Suharto defied demands for his immediate resignation. **Page 11**

Threatened heritage

SOME of Britain's finest historic buildings, including parts of Castle Howard, setting for the television adaptation of *Brideshead Revisited*, could be lost unless cash is found for restoration. A report says 1,500 buildings are threatened. **Page 4**

Padre 'groped Army wife'

AN ARMY chaplain grabbed a soldier's wife's breast before asking her to make love to him, a court martial was told. Captain Richard Landall also made lewd remarks to another soldier's wife and wolf-whistled at her. **Page 9**

MOUTH WATERING OYSTERS. (BUT NOT FROM OUR FOOD HALL.)

Watch shown available in 18ct. yellow gold priced £10,150, 18ct white gold £11,140. The Watch Room, fine jewellery, ground floor.

It's probably the largest, most tempting display of Rolex Oysters you'll ever see, all glittering beneath the crystal chandeliers in our Watch Room. And because we don't believe you'll ever see finer chronometers in your life, we've made sure it's not far from the champagne in the Wine Department. Just in case you should feel like celebrating the purchase of a lifetime.

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INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 ● CROSSWORDS, P28 AND EYE P10 ● TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P12 ● FULL CONTENTS, P2

هكذا من الأصل

TOMORROW

Hunter Davies: why my daughter faces two years in an African prison

Drugs on campus: are universities too soft? **Education+**

Nonie Niesewand on Scotland's new national treasure **The Eye**

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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT SECTORS

Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

Inflation rise fuels fears over pay claims

By Diane Coyle and Colin Brown

TAX increases announced by Gordon Brown in his first two Budgets took inflation to a six-year high last month, triggering alarm that higher pay claims could derail the Government's economic policies.

The Chancellor issued a stern warning that pay must stay under control. "I don't want another bout of wage inflation in the UK and I think everyone has responsibilities in this respect," he said, after a meeting of finance ministers in Luxembourg.

However, the tax-related jump in headline retail price inflation to 4 per cent last month, along with the announcement of an inflation-busting pay award of up to 5.25 per cent for 90,000 Marks and Spencer staff, had already prompted demands for higher pay from public sector workers. Their anger was voiced by Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the union, Unison, with a warning that the public sector was falling further behind the private sector.

There was fresh fuel for his anger in separate figures suggesting the government's finances might be in surplus this year, a year earlier than the Chancellor predicted. The improvement is due partly to falling public expenditure in real terms, a squeeze which is likely to put Mr Brown under intense pressure in the current spending review.

More than a million public sector workers had their pay pegged to an average 2.7 per cent in January, after the Cabinet decided to pay the rises recommended by the review bodies in two stages. Ministers are now certain to face demands for higher settlement in next year's pay round.

All public sector staff, including nurses, were held to two per cent in April with the remainder to be paid in December. Mr Bickerstaffe warned inflation could lead to a "push" in pay demands in the private sector widening the gap with the public sector.

Recent official figures showed the gap already yawning, with earnings growth up to 5.6 per cent in the private sector in a shock increase, but stuck at 2.6 per cent in the public sector.

"It will make people who work in the public sector even more unhappy, more likely to leave or it will make it difficult to recruit people," Mr Bickerstaffe said. "The Prime Minister said it's the start of the giving age. Whatever the rate of inflation let's give a fair rate to public sector workers."

Any sign of new pay pressures would alarm City analysts already concerned that the Bank of England might have to raise interest rates again if earnings take off. "The financial markets will focus on how rebellious the public sector is likely to be," said Simon Briscoe at Nikko Europe, an investment bank.

Inflation up, borrowing down, page 23

Kirsty Wark

IN AN article about a new ITV current affairs series, we referred to one bid by Scottish Television and Wark Clements. The article contained a number of inaccuracies and we are happy to make clear that Kirsty Wark is not the face on the bid and has not visited ITV headquarters. We apologise for any embarrassment.

Tim Spicer, whose claims yesterday will focus more attention on the inquiry which has been ordered by Robin Cook Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Sandline chief: We did nothing wrong

By Andrew Buncombe

THE former army officer at the centre of the "arms to Africa" affair yesterday said his mercenaries liaised with government officials every time they carried out an operation.

Speaking about the affair for the first time, Tim Spicer said Sandline International was "beholden" to tell the Government what it was doing. The day after it was announced that Mr Spicer will not be prosecuted for an apparent breach of UN sanctions, he said he had clear government approval to ship arms to Sierra Leone in support of the ousted president, Ahmed Tejan Kabbah. "It is really beholden on us to try and inform the relevant governments of what we have been asked to do. We would always inform those people we felt ought to be informed."

His claim that officials were told every time an operation was planned will further focus attention on the inquiry the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, has launched into possible involvement of FCO officials in the shipment of arms to Sierra Leone last February.

Mr Spicer said: "My major irritation is that I have spent a great deal of my time working for the Government, in different political persuasions. What we did in Sierra Leone was designed for the good rather than the bad of the country. If one believes you acted with the approval of the Government, as represented by officials or whoever, it's pretty galling to be involved as part of a criminal investigation.

"That being said, I am delighted that there are going to be no criminal charges." HM Customs and Excise, which did a six-week investigation into whether Sandline and others had broken the embargo banning arms sales to Sierra Leone, said on Monday there would be no prosecution, because "circumstances leading up to the supply" of arms had made such a charge unfair. There were also claims that comments made by Tony Blair about the entire affair being a "hoo-haa" had made a prosecution impossible.

Mr Spicer would like to contribute to an independent inquiry, headed by Sir Thomas Legg, a former permanent secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department. Should he be asked, he will rebut Mr Cook's claim, on Monday, that there had only been one meeting between FCO officials and Sandline and that the arms shipment was never mentioned. Sandline has always insisted there were at least three official meetings in Britain, with more meetings with officials in West Africa.

He admitted that, while he believed he had clear approval, he had nothing in writing. He never met a minister but refused to say whether he had been told by officials that ministers had been told. Mr Spicer also refused to give specific details of dates of meetings with officials or the High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold. Sandline also provided helicopters and pilots to Nigerian-led forces that liberated Freetown last February. "We flew ... day and night to help move troops and evacuate their casualties. Surely it must be right to help someone that is elected back to power, particularly in face of the savage, ruthless regime that ousted him."

Harrow geography master stole £36,000

A FORMER geography master at Harrow, one of Britain's leading public schools, was found guilty yesterday of stealing more than £36,000 from a school holiday fund.

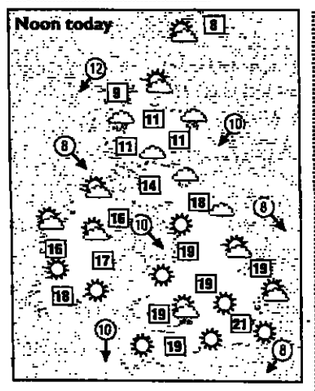
Peter Jackson, 36, overcharged wealthy parents for a school expedition to Tanzania and Zanzibar he organised in July 1996.

London's Wood Green Crown Court, where Jackson will be sentenced on Friday, heard how he spent "vast sums" on his own children's private school fees and piano lessons, his mortgage, and renovations including a new thatched roof at his country cottage.

After the jury delivered unanimous guilty verdicts on 12 sample counts of theft and one of forgery between April 1995 and November 1996, Judge Leonard Gerber warned Jackson that prison was almost certainly the only option.

In his defence Jackson, of Charminster, Dorset, had argued that there was a "culture" at Harrow that allowed him and colleagues to operate as one-man travel companies, and profit for the time and effort involved. Headmaster Nicholas Bomford said: "One assumed one was dealing with someone one could trust. He slipped through the net."

WEATHER



A cool day across the bulk of Scotland with light rain breaking out in many parts. The rain will, however, start to clear in the north during the afternoon with some sunny spells developing there. North-east England will also see a lot of cloud with the risk of some rain later, with coasts staying cool and misty. Northern Ireland, Wales and the rest of England will be mostly dry with decent spells of sunshine, but there is the chance of isolated light showers in the afternoon.

Outlook for the next few days

Most parts will be dry up to and through the coming weekend, although there is the risk of some light showers but these will not amount to much. It will be cooler everywhere by Thursday with the end of the very warm spell of weather, although there will be some sunshine in most parts over the next few days. Northern Scotland may see more in the way of light showers and most parts are at risk of seeing rain on Sunday.

British Isles weather

most recent available figure at noon local time
C,cloudy; Cl,clear; F,fair; Fg,fog; Hz,haze; M,mist; R,rain; S,sunny; Sl,sleet; Sh,showers; Sn,snow; Th,thunder.

Aberdeen	F	16 61	Guernsey	S	20 68
Anglesey	S	20 68	Inverness	F	15 59
Ayr	C	16 61	Ipswich	S	20 68
Belfast	F	20 68	I of Scilly	S	18 64
Birmingham	S	23 73	Jersey	S	20 68
Blackpool	S	18 64	Liverpool	S	18 64
Bournemouth	S	22 72	London	S	22 72
Brighton	F	21 70	Manchester	S	22 72
Bristol	S	22 72	Newcastle	M	15 59
Cardiff	S	20 68	Oxford	S	21 70
Carlisle	F	20 68	Plymouth	S	23 73
Dover	S	17 63	Scarborough	C	13 55
Dublin	S	19 66	Southampton	S	23 73
Edinburgh	S	18 64	Southend	F	18 64
Exeter	F	21 70	Stornoway	C	12 54
Glasgow	C	17 63	York	S	19 66

Air quality

Yesterday's readings

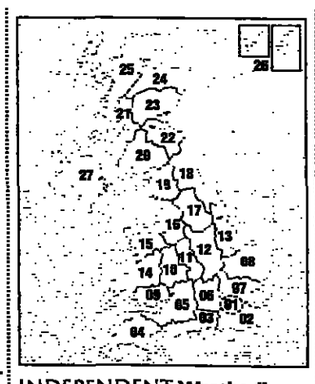
	NO_2	O_3
London	Mod	Good
S England	Mod	Mod
Wales	Mod	Mod
C England	Mod	Mod
N England	Mod	Mod
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good

Outlook for today

London	Mod	Good
S England	Mod	Mod
Wales	Mod	Mod
C England	Mod	Mod
N England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good

Out and about with AA Roadwatch

Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min at all times (inc VAT)



INDEPENDENT Weatherline

For the latest forecasts dial 0891 5009 followed by the two digits for your area indicated by the above map. Source: The Met Office. Calls charged at 50p per min at all times (inc VAT)

High tides

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	08:58	6.2	21 18	6 1
Liverpool	06:26	8.0	19:11	7.8
Avonmouth	01:56	10.7	14:33	10 7
Hull (Albert Dock)	01:20	7 3	13:39	7.4
Greenock	07:34	2.9	20 21	2.9
Dun Laoghaire	07:03	3.6	20:03	3.5

Height measured in metres

Lighting-up times

Belfast	21 31	to	05 09
Birmingham	21 04	to	05 03
Bristol	21.02	to	05.11
Glasgow	21.32	to	04.56
London	20 53	to	05.01
Manchester	21 11	to	05 00
Newcastle	21 16	to	04 49

Sun & moon

Sun rises:	05 02
Sun sets:	20 53
Moon rises:	02 40
Moon sets:	13 50

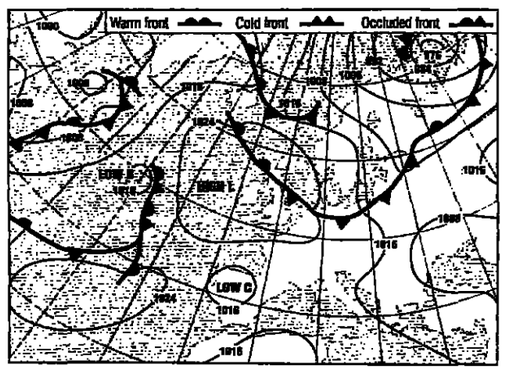
New Moon: May 25

World weather

most recent available figure at noon local time

Akrotiri	S	22 72	Buenos Aires	S	18 64	Jakarta	na			Mexico City	S	26 79	Riyadh	F	39 102
Alexandria	F	24 75	Cairo	F	26 79	Istanbul	C	15 59		Miami	F	28 82	Rome	S	23 73
Algiers	F	22 72	Calgary	C	13 55	Jakarta	F	33 91		Milan	F	26 79	Salzburg	C	14 57
Alicante	F	24 75	Cape Town	F	18 64	Jeddah	S	36 97		Moukaua	F	27 81	Sao Paulo	F	19 66
Amsterdam	C	21 70	Caracas	C	29 84	Jerusalem	S	27 81		Montreal	S	22 72	Santiago	F	23 73
Anchorage	C	11 52	Casablanca	C	19 66	Jo'burg	S	16 61		Moscow	S	21 70	Seoul	M	23 73
Athens	C	18 64	Chicago	S	31 88	Karachi	S	41 106		Munich	C	19 66	Singapore	Th	30 86
Auckland	F	17 63	Christchurch	C	14 57	Kathmandu	S	28 82		Nairobi	F	23 73	Stockholm	C	18 64
Bahrain	S	39 102	Cologne	S	24 75	Kiev	C	15 59		Naples	F	21 70	Strasbourg	S	23 73
Bangkok	C	31 88	Copenhagen	C	16 61	Kingston	S	33 91		Nassau	F	27 81	Sydney	Sh	19 66
Barbados	C	30 86	Corfu	F	21 70	Kuala Lumpur	C	35 95		New Delhi	S	35 95	Taipei	C	28 82
Barcelona	S	20 68	Dakar	S	25 77	Las Palmas	C	22 72		New Orleans	S	31 88	Tel Aviv	F	24 75
Beirut	C	21 70	Darwin	S	33 91	Lima	C	22 72		New York	S	26 79	Tenerife	F	22 72
Belgrade	C	14 57	Dhahran	S	39 102	Lisbon	S	20 68		Nice	S	20 68	Tokyo	C	22 72
Berlin	S	22 72	Faro	C	20 68	Locarno	S	21 70		Nicosia	F	26 79	Toronto	C	25 77
Bermuda	F	23 73	Florence	F	20 68	Los Angeles	S	19 66		Oslo	C	18 64	Tunis	F	22 72
Biarritz	C	17 63	Frankfurt	S	23 73	Luxembourg	S	23 73		Paris	S	25 77	Valencia	C	23 73
Bogota	C	16 61	Funchal	F	23 73	Madrid	C	19 66		Peking	M	26 79	Vancouver	C	14 57
Bombay	F	34 93	Geneva	S	19 66	Majorca	F	23 73		Perth	S	21 70	Venice	F	23 73
Bordeaux	S	26 79	Gibraltar	F	22 72	Malaga	F	25 77		Port Stanley	D	6 43	Vienna	R	18 64
Brisbane	S	23 73	Havana	F	21 70	Malta	S	21 70		Prague	C	20 68	Warsaw	F	21 70
Brussels	S	22 72	Helsinki	C	18 64	Manila	F	35 95		Reykjavik	C	5 41	Washington	S	28 82
Bucharest	C	20 68	Hong Kong	Sh	27 81	Mecca	S	42 108		Rhodes	S	20 68	Wellington	S	12 54
Budapest	R	14 57	Honolulu	F	28 82	Melbourne	M	19 66		Rio de Jan	C	24 75	Zurich	S	19 66

Atlantic chart, noon today



High I, is slow moving and will intensify. Low B will drift northwards, filling. Low C is also slow moving.

WILLIAM HARTSTON WEATHER WISE

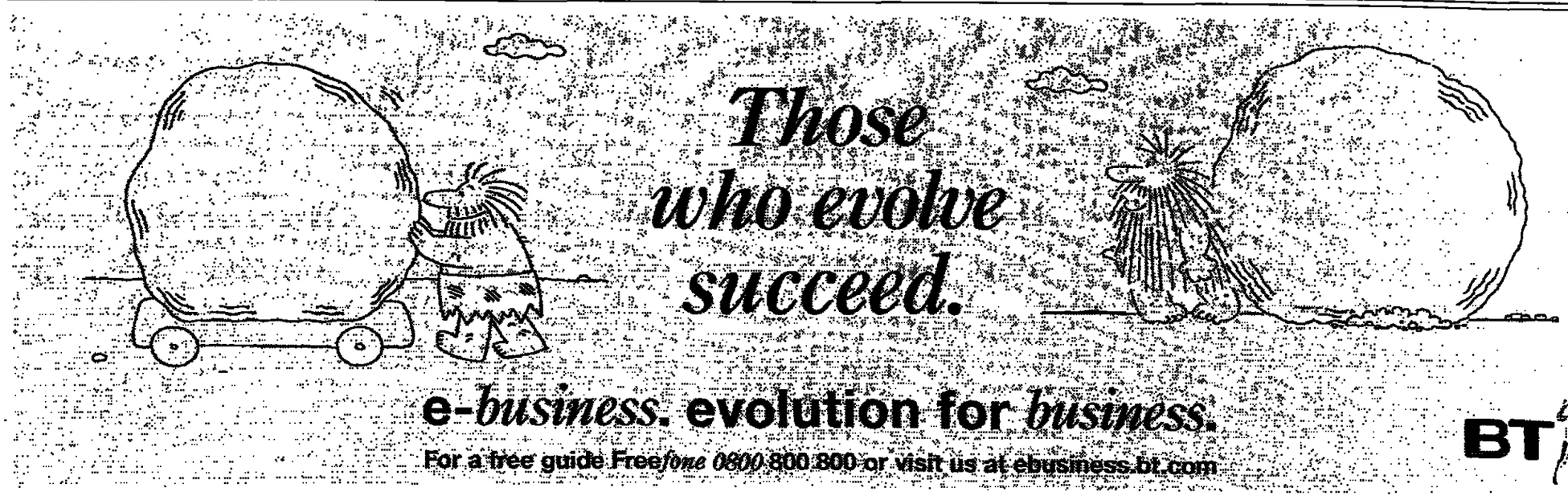
OVER the past 2,500 years, weather forecasting has moved from superstition to empiricism, and finally to mathematics. Now, thanks to the enterprise of two young meteorologists in Munich, it has reached the pinnacle of scientific evolution – for thanks to the launch of the European Weather Challenge (EWC), weather forecasting is now an international sport.

The rules of the event run over the Internet by Paul James and Michael Sachweh are simple. Entrants (mainly professional forecasters and university departments) must forecast by noon each Friday what the temperature will be at each of 10 widely spread locations in Europe at noon on Monday. Points are given according to the correctness of the forecast, with one point lost for each degree of error.

The first 12-week round of the competition ended in February in a victory for the professional forecasting group Meteo Consult of the Netherlands. The second round is now at its halfway stage, and Meteo Consult are again in the lead, level with the Yunet Weather Team from Belgrade.

I asked Paul James how the entrants' forecasts compared with that old British stand-by of "same as today". The figures he provided are most encouraging. All 18 entrants in the first competition did better than "same as today", the best of them scoring some 25 per cent higher.

Quite apart from the competitive fun, the EWC is providing an objective measure of the effectiveness of modern forecasters. And it confirms what a good job they're doing.



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هكذا من الاصل

Gazza's friends: the new yobbocracy

Britannia never looked less cool. Its cultural heroes are now yobbocrats – a network of drinkers, not thinkers. By David Thomas

YOU can judge a man by the company he keeps. So why, with 21 days to go before the World Cup opens in France, is Paul Gascoigne, England's football totem, out carousing again with the likes of Chris Evans and Danny Baker?

It's a question that is splitting the nation. Some have no problem with Gazza's kebab-and-fags-and-lager preparation for the biggest sporting occasion of the year. Others side with the approach favoured by the Arsenal manager, Arsène Wenger: orange juice, salad and early to bed.

Sadly, Gazza is also a totem of the Yobbocracy, a group of A-list celebrity New Lads and Lassies who like to do their roistering in the public eye.

Gazza is the Tim Nice-But-Dim of this clique. "What's wrong with having a kebab?" he said yesterday. "We're talking about one night. I'm sure a lot of the other guys were having a drink as well."

Of course, such unorthodox preparation is nothing new for Gazza, who warmed up for *Euro96* with a drinking marathon in Hong Kong (his chosen poison: the flaming Lamborghini). Then, to prove his critics wrong, he scored that extraordinary goal against Scotland.

What is new, however, is the way a group of high-profile, heavy drinking stars from different fields have come together to form the Yobbocracy. What Gazza is to football, the Gallagher brothers are to rock, Damien Hirst is to art, James Brown, the former editor of *Loaded*, is to magazine publishing and Chris Evans and Zoe Ball are to breakfast radio shows.

Not only are they naughty, they possess wealth that few genuine aristocrats could match.

Evans has a 55 per cent stake in the Ginger Media Group, owners of Virgin radio and Ginger Productions, valued at more than £100 million. Noel Gallagher's song-writing royalties from Oasis now run to tens of millions. And while poor George Best may have had trouble paying the £300,000 mortgage on his London flat, Gazza could have bought it outright from petty cash.

Yet for all their affluence, the Yobbocracy have inherited the parsimonious instincts of their upper-class predecessors. Nothing attracts a Yobbocrat more than the prospect of a free drink, hence their appearances at launches, award ceremonies and freebies of all kinds.

Damien Hirst likes to take his pals to the Pharmacy restaurant in Notting Hill: he owns it and the drinks are on the house. Little wonder he is so popular with this crowd.

His other eaterie, Quo Vadis, in Soho, is a yob-spotter's paradise, even if the yobs – having quaffed copious iced margaritas – sometimes ignore its expensive menu in favour of the nearest kebab stand.

Just down the street from Quo Vadis is the Groucho Club, once Yob Central and still a popular spot for those who haven't, like Liam Gallagher, been banned for life. The centre of star gravity has, however, shifted from the Groucho to the Soho House, a short stagger away in Greek Street.

Similarly, Yobbocrats used to gather in Oliver Peyton's Atlantic Bar and Grill, but that's now reserved for aspirant yoblets: the stars are more likely to be found in Peyton's new hang-out, Mash. Chris Evans, however, prefers the Met Bar at the Metropolitan Hotel on Park Lane.

For more sensitive trend-setters the presence of boorish celebrities is a distinctly mixed blessing. According to Danielle Nay, a Channel 5 executive and party-girl deluxe, "We're all dreading the moment when they realise that the Mirabelle is the new chic place. When Gazza catches up, you know it's time to move on."

Not that the Yobbocracy are worried by the reactions of others. If pathetically middle-class types are offended, they may reply with the disdain of a true toff (although sometimes in the four-letter vernacular of the street.)

These are not, you might think, nice people. But in the same way that sad, middle-aged teachers sometimes try to solve the problems of indiscipline by ingratiating themselves with misfit pupils, so a sad, middle-aged Downing Street establishment – faced with an entire generation of under-educated, unemployable, hopelessly alienated young males, and the highest proportion of unmarried teenage mothers in the western world – has tried to cosy up to the Yobs, relishing their status as the gentry of Cool Britannia.

But have the Blair brigade backed the right horses? Gazza may be all over the tabloids on account of his drinking. But while he's been out getting smashed, it's the newly sober, sensitive, piano-playing Tony Adams whose skippered Arsenal to the double.

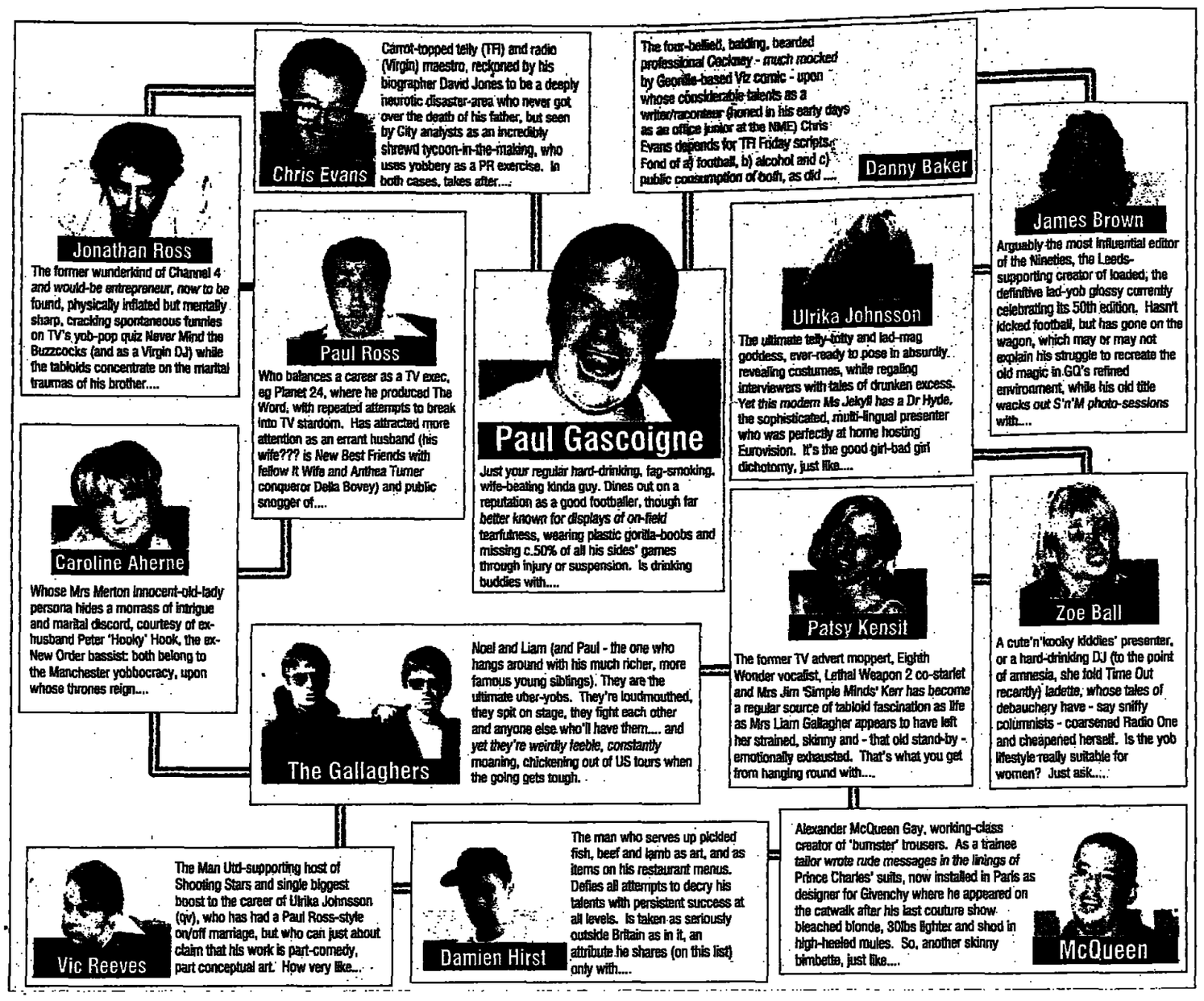
The Wenger-era Gunners are a testimony to the virtues of sobriety and intelligence. Typically, Mr Bergkamp was ordered home early from a dinner to honour him as footballer of the year in case staying up too late would spoil his preparations for the FA Cup final.

Oasis, meanwhile, appear to be moving in much the same downward direction as their beloved Manchester City. Sales of their last album *Be Here Now* have fallen far below its predecessor, *(What's the Story) Morning Glory?*, while their tour of Australia and New Zealand was a PR disaster.

Meanwhile, the much-derided Spice Girls – happy, smiley, hard-working professionals that they are – have defied the doom-merchants who predicted that their film and concerts would flop.

It is, of course, in the nature of things that self-indulgent aristos are replaced by cool, rational puritans. The true image of the coming age may not be Gazza and his mates out boozing, but of that former drink-driver Tony Adams contemplating poetry and tickling the ivories.

It is a prospect that must fill the tabloid newspaper editors with shock and horror.



Canadian author scoops Orange Prize with a tale of male angst

By Boyd Tonkin
Literary Editor

Carol Shields, whose literary award represents a second successive Canadian triumph

THE judges of the Orange Prize, open only to women novelists, last night extended a friendly hand to the opposite sex by giving this year's £30,000 award to a funny and sympathetic account of an ordinary guy in the midst of a mid-life crisis.

Larry's Party by the Chicago-born but Canadian-resident novelist Carol Shields, portrays a prosperous but self-doubting garden designer whose life takes a new turning after a moment of enlightenment in the maze at Hampton Court.

Reviewing the book in *The Independent*, Penelope Lively called it "a brilliant fictional reflection on what it may be like to be a man in the late 20th century". Male critics concurred. Choosing *Larry's Party* as a Book of the Year, also in *The Independent*, television scriptwriter Andrew Davies found it "shimmeringly vivid" and – like the mazes its hero designs – "very skilfully patterned".

Carol Shields was 7-2 second favourite to win the prize, just behind Pauline Melville's Whitbread-winning first novel *The Ventriloquist's Tale*. She has lived for many years in Winnipeg, where she is chancellor of the university. Born in 1935, she did not achieve widespread success on both sides of the Atlantic until the early 1990s. After that, she rapidly rose to prominence with novels such as *Happenstance* (which tells the same story from a male and female point of view), *The Republic of Love* and *The Stone Diaries*, which won the Pulitzer Prize.

Supported by the mobile-phone group but with its prize-money funded by an anonymous American benefactor, the Orange Prize was first awarded in 1996 after hostile press attention had deterred its original sponsor, Mitsubishi of Japan. It has courted controversy both with its gender restriction and by its apparent favouring of North American over British writers. Only one British author, Pauline Melville, appears on this year's shortlist. Shields's award represents a second successive Canadian triumph, following last year's victory for *Fugitive Pieces* by Anne Michaels.

■ *Larry's Party* by Carol Shields is published in paperback this week by Fourth Estate. The other shortlisted titles were Pauline Melville's *The Ventriloquist's Tale* (Bloomsbury), Deirdre Purcell's *Love Like Hate Adore* (Pan), Kirsten Bakis's *Lives of the Monster Dogs* (Sceptre), Ann Patchett's *The Magician's Assistant* (Fourth Estate) and Anita Shreve's *The Weight of Water* (Little, Brown).

An extract from Larry's Party:

TURNING 40 opened a seam of panic in Larry Weller, and he had to admit, sadly, that there was nothing remarkable in this.

A fortieth birthday is twinned with anxiety, with mortal dread, it's to be expected, it's par for the course, at least among Larry's acquaintances or from what he glimpses on the commercials he sees on TV, which seem differently targeted for the post-forties, more sincerely sorry that "you out there" must be informed about the hazards of heart disease or haemorrhoids or depression triggers.

Forty is on the side of the wealthy and the ailing – Larry sometimes burns with the shame of having "done well" – and the disequilibrium 40 brings is all too well marked on the psychological road map; you shrug when it comes along, shrug and suffer in the shambling morning light and wait for your brain to absorb its juices.

Women die 'to save NHS £7,500 a year'

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Editor

A CANCER DRUG that can buy women an extra year of life for £7,500 should no longer be denied to those who need it, a group of doctors and patient organisations said yesterday.

The drug, Taxol, has been shown to extend the lives of women with advanced ovarian cancer by at least 10 months but many do not get it because their local health authorities regard it as too expensive. Results from the largest clinical trial released in the US yesterday confirm that when combined with platinum, it could postpone the premature deaths of many of the 6,000 women who develop the cancer in the UK each year if it was more widely prescribed.

A statement issued by the group yesterday called for an end to "postcode rationing" and wide variations in standards of care.

Jean Mossman, chief executive of CancerBacup, the patient support service, said: "To face a diagnosis of ovarian cancer is bad enough. To face it knowing that a patient in another part of the country can enjoy better treatment and potentially better survival must be heartbreaking."

Dr Hilary Thomas, senior lecturer in clinical oncology at Hammersmith Hospital, west London, said: "We are talking about £7,500 per patient. That's the cost of a small car. The idea that £7,500 is too much for an extra year of life is ridiculous."

Ovarian cancer is the fourth commonest cause of cancer death in women, claiming 4,000 lives a year in the UK. The position of the ovaries deep in the abdomen makes early diagnosis difficult. Most sufferers are not diagnosed until the disease is well advanced. The standard treatment is removal of the ovaries, plus chemotherapy, but when the cancer has spread only one in five patients survives five years.

Dr Patrick Therasse, director of the European Organisation for the Research and Treatment of Cancer Data Centre said: "With this new regimen taken as reference, we could extend the life expectancy of 7,000 women in Europe each year."

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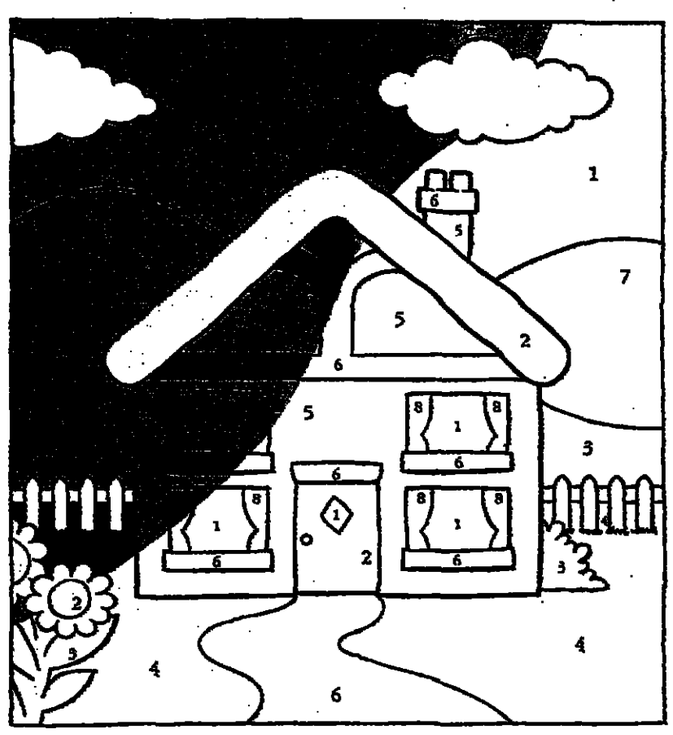

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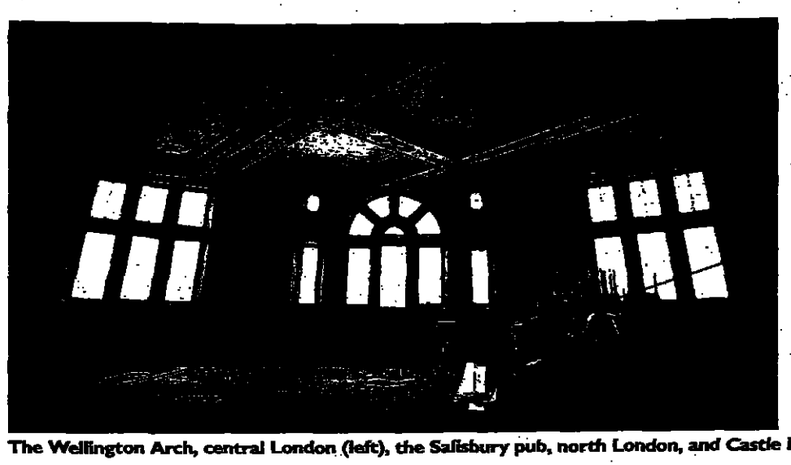
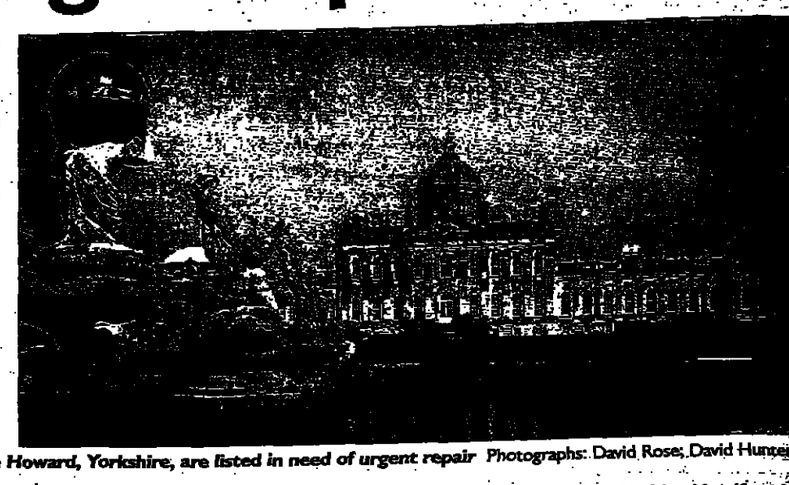
New list shows historic buildings at special risk





The Wellington Arch, central London (left), the Salisbury pub, north London, and Castle Howard, Yorkshire, are listed in need of urgent repair Photographs: David Rose; David Hunter

By Steve Boggan

SOME of Britain's finest historic buildings, including parts of Castle Howard, the setting for the television adaptation of *Brideshead Revisited*, could be lost to the nation unless cash is found for urgent restoration.

According to an English Heritage report published yesterday, 1,500 Grade I and II buildings may crumble beyond repair if action is not taken, with one-quarter being described as in "immediate danger".

The warning was sounded by English Heritage following the publication of the first national register of the country's most beautiful or historically significant buildings and promises of £5m in grants to help save them.

Among the entries are Wellington Arch, at Hyde Park Corner, through which the body of Diana, Princess of Wales, was carried en route to her funeral; Saltwood Castle, in Kent, home of the maverick Tory MP Alan Clark; the impressive conservatories of Wentworth Castle in south Yorkshire, and 7 Ditherington Flax Mill, the first iron-framed building in the world and the forerunner to the skyscraper. Castle Howard, in north Yorkshire, where the acclaimed television version of Evelyn Waugh's novel was filmed in 1981, is in need of up to £2m of repairs to its mausoleum, gates, railings, walls, a 1778 Medici vase and pedestal, and a collapsing balustrade.

The Grade I building, designed by Vanburgh and Hawksmoor, was repaired with a grant in the 1980s, but more work needs to be done. "The estate is owned by the Hon Simon Howard and he estimates repair work on the mausoleum will cost £1-£2m," said Peter De Lange, spokesman for English Heritage.

Unveiling the register, Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, said: "Historic buildings are a most significant part of our cultural heritage. They are an irreplaceable element of the collective memory of local communities, contributing to the public's sense of place and identity.

"Now we will be able to target resources on those buildings in greatest need. Today we publish details for the first time, backed by a £5m package of grants. Doing nothing is no longer an option."

English Heritage intends the register to be used to help local authorities identify vulnerable buildings and to prompt owners to maintain them with the aid of a guide.

Other buildings identified as in need of help include: Astley Castle, a moated medieval manor house in Warwickshire; Dalton Pumping Station: a high Victorian edifice near Durham; Paston Barn in Norfolk, one of the finest barns in the country; and Pleasely Colliery, a former coal mine in Derbyshire.

English Heritage, which said the register implied no criticism of owners, also included in the regional list Rufus Castle, in Portland, Dorset; the former Assize Court in Bodmin, Cornwall; and the disused Exe Vale Hospital at Exminster, Devon.

On 3 June, English Heritage will publish a list of monuments at risk. Sir Jocelyn said: "Together with the Buildings at Risk Register, these two documents will, for the first time, provide an overall assessment of the most important elements of our historic environment.

"How safe is our heritage? Finally we shall be able to answer and be equipped with the knowledge to make it safer."

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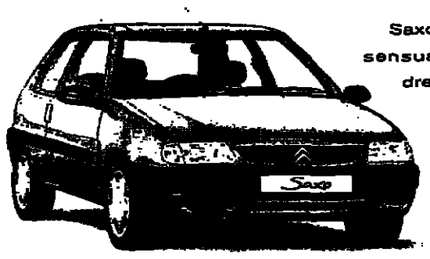

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Holiday photo clue in hunt for girl's killer

By Jason Bennetto
Crime Correspondent

POLICE hunting the man who raped and murdered 13-year-old Caroline Dickinson while she was on a school trip in France have obtained a photograph of a suspect in what could be an important breakthrough.

A Frenchman was photographed at a hostel in the Republic of Ireland in January by a Swiss couple on holiday. They became suspicious after noticing the similarity between the stranger and a photofit shown on television of a suspect seen near the dormitory in Brittany where Caroline was murdered nearly two years ago.

The French police have alerted the authorities in Ireland and circulated copies of the photograph, which features a man with dark eyebrows and long straggly hair. The man was photographed at Clifden, in the Connemara holiday region in the west of Ireland. Checks on hostels in the area are being carried out.

One of Caroline's teachers, Nick Ward, who is reported to have seen a strange man loitering near Caroline's bedroom on the night she died, 18 July 1996, has also seen the photograph and believes there are similarities between the two images.

The photograph could be an important lead in an investigation that has been hampered by a series of police blunders, including failure to follow up potentially vital clues.

Caroline was found raped and smothered in a youth hostel dormitory in the village of Pleine Fougères, near Rennes. She was killed while four girl classmates slept in the same room.

John Dickinson, Caroline's father, said yesterday: "This could be an important development, but I'm not building my hopes up."

Captain Jean-Pierre Michel, the gendarme officer who recently took over the investigation, said: "They [the Swiss couple] were on holiday in Ireland taking pictures of crowds of people as they were sightseeing. When they were looking at their photographs they thought they had common characteristics with the image they had seen on the television.

"We are investigating this lead and trying to find out whether it is the same person."

He refused to give details of the photograph, saying it was too early in the investigation.

DAILY POEM

Last Dream

By Susan Wicks

Not this one at the café table
spidered with red, crystals in our glasses
glinting in sunlight.
My crumpled jacket.

Not this tide of wings rising
through green, flash of opened windows
over wet tarmac, the swirl
and lift of litter.

Not even the ridged truck-bed
where we lie down in dark, the pink explosion
of city stars, this cold metal
the length of our bodies.

But your hand a warm root
crusted with earth as I lift it
to my cheek and hold it.
The kiss of grit.

Susan Wicks is a poet who has also written an an acclaimed memoir (*Driving my Father*) and two novels. *Little Thing*, her latest fiction, is published this week by Faber & Faber (£9.99).

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

The Leeds arts students cavort for the camera in their exhibition, 'Going Places' Photographs: Tony Bartholomew

Espana in the works for art students' degree show hoax

By Louise Jury

WILLIAM BOYD may have started something. Hot on the heels of his literary hoax, a completely fictional tale of an obscure and tragic artist, a bunch of students have adopted the idea of the con as art.

Thirteen art students at Leeds University yesterday claimed they did not really blow £1,800 sponsorship holidaying in Spain as they had pretended to do for their exhibition, *Going Places*. In fact, they never left Britain.

A row broke out when it appeared that the students had gone to the Costa del Sol instead of preparing what would be more usually called art for a degree show. Lecturers and a sponsor invited to the exhibition were greeted by a bowl of sangria, flamenco music and a stewardess who shepherded them on to a coach. Arriving at Leeds-Bradford airport, a flight from Spain was signalled on the monitors and the artists appeared complete with suitcases and tans. But yesterday it emerged the whole exercise was not what it seemed. Photographs supporting their holidaying claims turned out to have been snapped in Scarborough, their tans were from a sunbed and other exotic locations were exposed as Leeds.

A cold, grey Cayton Bay beach faked the Costa del Sol

Alex Sobel, finance officer for the Leeds University student union which gave a £1,126 grant, said he had had his suspicions. "I saw one of them during the period they were supposed to be away," he said.

But the project really took off when the students revealed their elaborate scheme to the student newspaper. The union, although initially livid, was more sanguine once the students promised to repay the cash. But Mr Sobel said: "It gives the union a bad name, because it looks as if we give money for fraudulent use."

But Terry Atkinson, their tutors and a former Turner Prize nominee, said the idea had been very successful in raising questions about the nature of art.

"In relatively difficult terms, what we would say is the relations of distribution – how the idea gets distributed – have become part of the production," he said. "We knew they were a lively year and were capable of serious intellectual work and this underlines that."

All new jails to be in private sector

By Ian Burrell
Home Affairs Correspondent

JACK STRAW, the Home Secretary, caused uproar among prison officers yesterday when he indicated that all jails built in future were likely to be privately run.

To cries of "rubbish" from delegates at the Prison Officers' Association annual conference in Portsmouth, Mr Straw said that Home Office research had shown that private firms would not agree to build jails that they could not manage themselves.

Mr Straw walked into the conference hall to be greeted by stony silence as he attempted to strike up a new partnership of reconciliation with prison officers furious that he has not restored their trade union rights.

But the prospects for peace were dealt a crippling blow by what union leaders described as a "bombshell" disclosure by the Home Secretary.

Mark Healy, chairman of the POA, said: "This means that every jail that's going to be built in the future is not only going to be built with private money but run by private firms."

He claimed that because private jails were cheaper to run and had fewer staff, the development would have implications for public safety and would mean that prisoners were less likely to receive rehabilitative treatment.

But the Home Secretary said that he had become a convert to the idea of privately run jails and he could not ignore a succession of independent reports which had paid tribute to their efficiency and value for money.

Mr Straw said that a Home Office review had found that private companies were not prepared to accept the risk of investing in the building, design and maintenance of a jail while allowing the public sector to manage the establishment. He said: "I must conclude that there is no way that such a proposition is affordable and it certainly does not offer value for money."

The Home Secretary said that the public sector would be allowed to bid for future control of privately run jails when their management contracts ran out, but union leaders said the prison service had no realistic prospect of success.

Because no new publicly run prisons have been built since 1992, Mr Straw's announcement makes it unlikely that any new jails would be run directly by the prison service, said Mr Healy.

Mr Straw's brave decision to address what was always likely to be a hostile audience made him the first Home Secretary to attend the POA's annual conference in recent years.

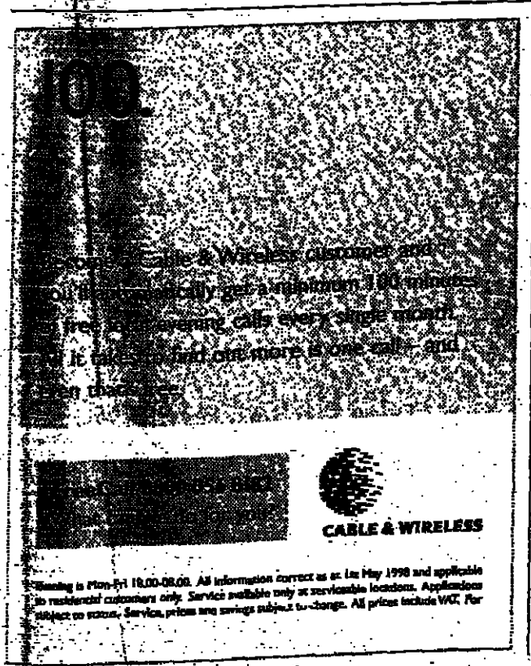
A succession of delegates queued up to denounce him variously as a "liar" and "the right dishonourable Mr Straw", accusing him of reneging on promises to restore full trade union rights to the POA.

In an effort to build a "constructive partnership", Mr Straw yesterday offered to revoke the legislation introduced by his predecessor Michael Howard, making it a criminal offence for a prison officer to take industrial action. He said he wished to introduce instead a new civil law which would prevent such action.

Mr Straw wants prison officers to have the same union rights as police officers and staff at GCHQ who are prevented from taking industrial action but have recourse to an independent body which reviews pay and conditions.

After an emergency motion, the union agreed to enter into negotiations with the Home Secretary.

Leading article, page 20



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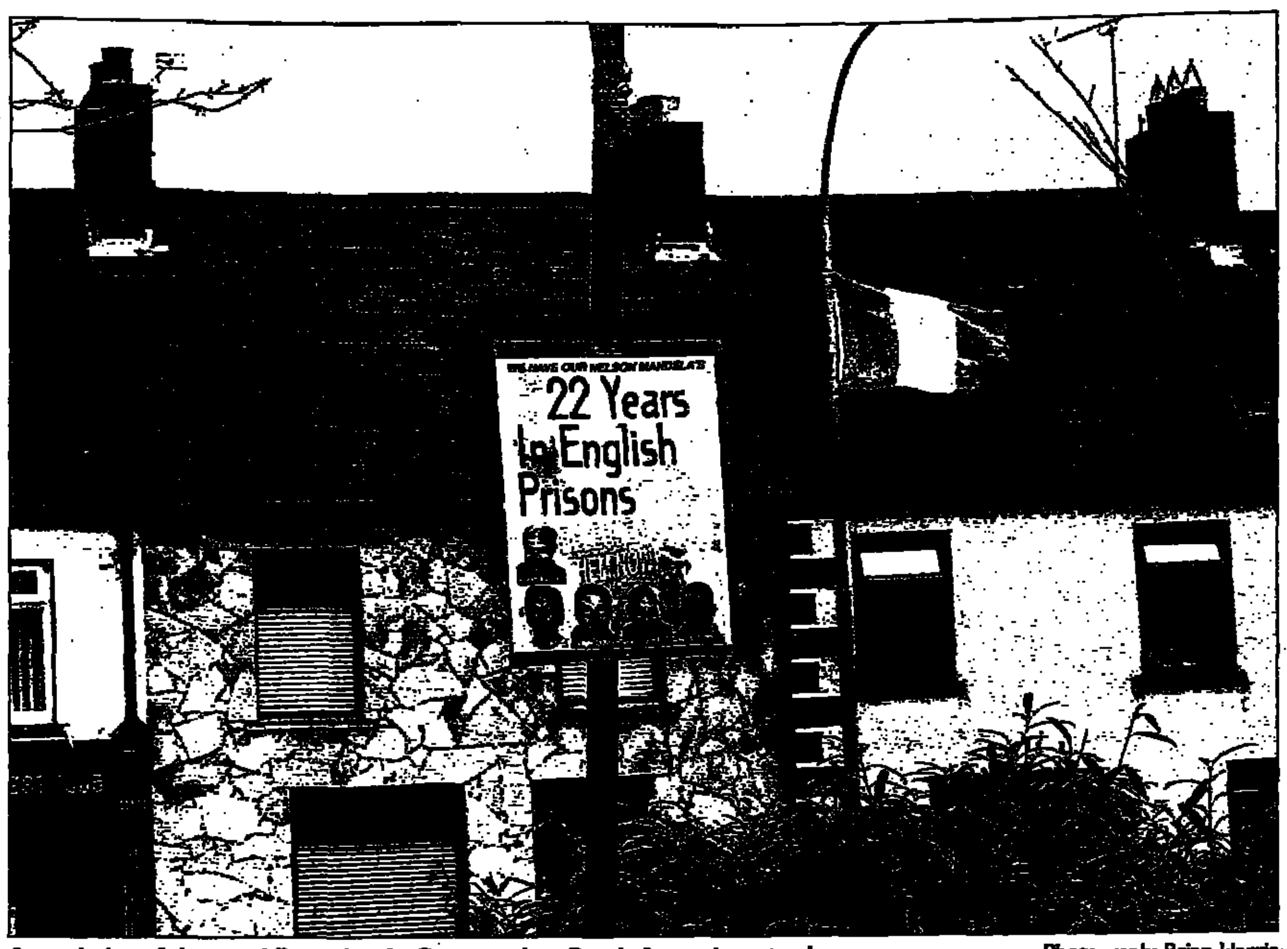
Doubters jeopardise Unionist Yes vote



A reminder of the republican view in Crossmaglen, South Armagh yesterday Photograph: Brian Harris

By David McKittrick
Ireland Correspondent

UNIONISTS campaigning for a "Yes" vote in Friday's Ulster referendum admitted last night that they are short of securing a majority in their own community for the Good Friday agreement.

According to their estimate, the pro-agreement vote is hovering at or under the 65 per cent mark across the communities, a result which would not deliver a decisive Unionist majority for the deal.

This means that the final days of the campaign are expected to see a fevered burst of activity in an attempt to capture the large number of undecided Protestant voters. One source said: "There are an *awful lot* of confused, doubtful, volatile voters still out there."

Academics and other commentators differ on what percentages would indicate a clear majority of Protestant voters in favour of the accord. Estimates range from 65 to 75 per cent.

With the Catholic community solidly in favour of the agreement, it is these undecided Protestants who will be targeted by Tony Blair when he flies to Belfast today in a late push to make pro-accord converts.

Some commentators yesterday claimed to detect a slight swing in favour of the "Yes" campaign, though there is no up-to-date opinion poll evidence to confirm this feeling. A poll published yesterday was based on fieldwork carried out between 8 to 10 May, before the "No" vote was boosted by the appearance of the IRA Balcombe Street gang at a Sinn Fein conference.

A reminder of violence came yesterday when an explosive device was sent to a Dublin tourist office. Although no organisation claimed responsibility, it is assumed to be the work of a loyalist group. The device, *apparently mailed from* Northern Ireland, contained a small tube of explosive material packed inside a video case together with ball-bearings. Irish Tourism Minister Dr Jim McDaid linked it to the Northern Ireland agreement, but said the Dublin government would not be intimidated.

Mr Blair has spent an extraordinary amount of time recently campaigning for a "Yes" vote, keeping up a daily stream of comments aimed at reassuring the voters. Today's visit represents his third to Belfast in recent weeks.

Speaking on a BBC phone-in programme yesterday, said he believed there was a real chance of defeating terrorism if there was a "Yes" vote. He said: "My view is that if we get this agreement endorsed in the referendum, splinter groups will find it very, very difficult to operate indeed. If these people go back to violence they will get nothing from the US, from the outside world." He added that he wished to give those allied to the main paramilitary groups an opportunity to become democrats.

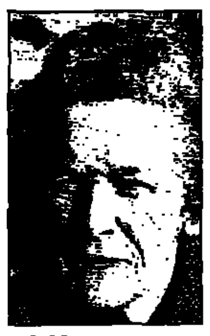
Many protestants will vote "no" in Friday's referendum. **Kim Sengupta** went to Unionist Sandy Row in south Belfast to ask why.

Samuel McDonald, 47, painter:
"I did want to vote yes, *because most of us want peace.* However the more I looked into it the less satisfied I became. I'm *not happy* about the prisoners being released, and I am not happy that at the same time they are reducing the number of police officers. I don't think Sinn Fein will lay down their guns. So what do we achieve by voting yes? I frankly don't think this agreement is going to work. I'm sorry to say so, but there you are."

David Redfern, 72, pensioner
"I don't think this agreement *does anything for us.* I think, this can only lead to a United Ireland. Why should Dublin have *any say in how I live.* It seems to me that all that happened is that politicians *like* David Trimble have sold us down the river. I also don't like all these politicians, Blair and Clinton, telling me what to do, I can think for myself. I am British and I don't need an American telling me what to think."

William Smith, 64, retired company director.
"*Put quite simply this agreement* is a sell-out. The other side have got almost everything they wanted, and we have been forced to give up far too much. A lot of people have *suffered in the* bombings and they must feel angry that these people of violence seem to have got what they wanted. I've got very little faith in the politicians who have agreed to this. They must have known that this thing wasn't right."

Elizabeth Smith, 73, pensioner:
"All of us want to see an end to *all of the bombings and* shootings. I thought that what they've agreed to can end the violence then I'd be the first one to sign. I don't think it's going to. I think the terrorists *have* simply won and I don't think that the prisoners should be released. No one around here wants to vote for this agreement. Of course we want our young people to grow up in peace, but this is not going to do it."



Alan Gurney, 64, pensioner:
"Four months ago a relation *of mine got shot by republican* terrorists – and this was when the ceasefire was supposed to be in existence. So there's no reason why I should vote for this peace *agreement,* because we can see that these people have not put away their guns. All my family feel the same way. None of them will be voting yes. I think one would have to be very silly to think that signing this thing will get rid of terrorism."

IN BRIEF

PC 'stalked by inspector after making complaint'

A DOZEN police officers who answered a woman colleague's call for help were amazed to find that her "attacker" was an inspector, a tribunal was told yesterday. Constable Barbara-Anne Harwood said she radioed for assistance because she was afraid of Inspector Colin Meads and feared for her safety.

She broke down in tears as she told of her fears after the inspector approached her in a glass corridor at Heathrow airport where they were both stationed. "He kept coming towards me and would not leave me alone." The tribunal in Croydon, south London, heard that the incident came after she had made a complaint about the inspector's criticism of handling of a case. PC Harwood, 35, from Wokingham, Berkshire, is claiming sexual discrimination against the Metropolitan Police and Insp Meads. The hearing continues today.

Prostitute killings: man held

A MAN was being held last night in connection with the murders of two prostitutes four years ago.

The body of 20-year-old single mother Samo Paull was found near Swinford, Leicestershire, in December 1993 and 30-year-old Tracy Turner was found dead three months later at nearby Bitteswell. Both women came from the West Midlands and had worked as prostitutes.

Leicestershire police said a 33-year-old man was in custody at a police station in the county after being arrested earlier yesterday, but refused to comment further.

Painted grass is last straw

BIRMINGHAM'S painted green grass has cost a top city politician his job, it emerged yesterday.

Coun Gurdev Manku was sacked only days after the transport department he controls sprayed the grass in Sheldon so it would look greener to world leaders arriving for the G8 Summit. He denied responsibility, but a Labour Group source said: "His department has been responsible for one embarrassment after another and I am afraid this was simply the last straw."

Threat to teacher trainers

COLLEGES and universities that offer substandard teacher training will be closed, Estelle Morris, the schools minister, said yesterday. She said that their failings would be exposed in new league tables, to be published in September after inspections by the Office for Standards in Education, and those that did not improve after being given help would be closed.

Vaccine compensation raised

COMPENSATION payments to children damaged by vaccines are to be raised from £30,000 to £40,000, the Government announced yesterday. Vaccine damage payments are made to people who have severe mental of physical disablement of 80 per cent or more as a result of vaccination against one of a group of specified diseases. The increased payments would apply to new claimants after parliamentary approval.

Sunshine 2: TV-football 0

ITV is blaming an early summer heat wave for attracting the lowest FA Cup final viewing figures in 10 years last weekend.

An overall average of 7.8 million viewers tuned in to the Arsenal vs Newcastle United match at Wembley on ITV, with 900,000 turning to the simultaneous live coverage on Sky. ITV's share of the total viewing audience, in its first exclusive terrestrial broadcast of the fixture, was 65 per cent throughout.

Jail for hedgehog killer

AN 18-YEAR-OLD student was jailed today for 90 days after roasting a hedgehog in a microwave oven. Lee Burden, from Birmingham, admitted a charge of cruelty with intent to cause unnecessary suffering at Henley Magistrates' Court, Oxfordshire.

Families failing to keep in touch

In The Eye
Charity begins again – an interview with Cy Coleman, the man who writes 24-carat gold hits

By Glenda Cooper
Social Affairs Correspondent

FAMILIES are seeing less of their relatives – unless they want to borrow money from them, according to a new report.

The Family Policy Studies Centre has found that couples with children have less contact with relatives than they did a decade ago. Contact with grandmothers is down by 10 per cent.

The fall in family contact partly stems from increased geographical distance between relatives, but even taking this into account contact has still fallen. There is also evidence that people phone each other less.

Among young middle-class families there has been one of the biggest declines in seeing relatives, with a drop of nearly one-fifth in the proportion who report seeing their children's grandmother every week.

Paradoxically those with dependent children appear to be less "family-centred" than those without. But despite the decline in family contact couples with children are more likely than they were a decade ago to turn to relatives for help with money. The research shows that parents are the most common source of monetary help among those with children, accounting for nearly three-quarters of the loans or gifts received by those with a child under-five.

■ Children living in step-families and with lone parents are more likely to ring ChildLine about family relationships than those who live in the traditional two parent family according to a new report by the charity.

Fifteen per cent of the calls the helpline receives are now about family relationships and parents splitting up – the largest category after physical or sexual abuse. The report recommends mediation for children when their parents are divorcing.

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No reprieve for duty-free shops

By Katherine Butler
in Brussels

EUROPEAN finance ministers squashed hopes yesterday of a reprieve for duty-free shopping. A final attempt by the Irish government to force a rethink failed at talks in Brussels despite strong support from the French and German governments and a change of heart at the last minute by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor.

Such was the determination by a majority to forge ahead with abolishing the tax perk by July 1999 that only a minority of countries was prepared to back even an impact study into the consequences for jobs. Campaigners had pinned hopes on a study as it would have implied a reprieve.

Mr Brown, who has consistently appeared hostile to any revision of the 1991 decision to scrap duty free, staged a surprising turnaround by backing calls for a study as he arrived for the meeting. "This is a very important issue which affects consumers right across Europe and affects consumers in Britain as they travel abroad" he said.

He blamed the Conservatives for signing Britain up to abolition, and said he would have preferred a full inquiry into the employment implications. "I do not like the decision we have made today", he said.

Campaigners for duty free expressed dismay at the outcome but pledged to fight on. They claim that 23 000 job losses in the UK and 130,000 throughout Europe could flow directly from the decision. John Hume of the International Duty Free Confederation said: "We are going to reinforce our efforts now. As the day draws closer ministers will realise that this is economic suicide". Barry Goddard of the British Duty Free Confederation predicted that 17,000 jobs in the UK alone could be lost as a result of the decision.

Irish minister Charlie McCreevy acknowledged the defeat but took heart from the strong support shown by the Germans and French and said lobbyists should not give up the fight. "It's never over till it's over" he said. Mr Mc Creevy said scrapping duty free had been agreed in 1991 in the expectation that duties on alcohol and tobacco would be harmonised, but this had not happened.

But Mario Monti, the European commissioner for the single market, said duty-free shops were a hidden subsidy for the consumption of alcohol and cigarettes. "What we have done today is to confirm a decision taken seven years ago. I have nothing against cigarettes and alcohol, but should we be asked to subsidise them?" Mr Monti said.

He agreed that the Commission would produce a report on the ways in which governments could attenuate any adverse consequences which might arise from the decision. This could be in the form of regional funding or state aid, he said.

Leading article, page 20

Elbow grace: Rev Simon Evans, left, takes lessons in basic self-defence from ex-policeman Peter Hodkinson Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

Clerics learn to lash out as well as reach out

By Clare Garner

IT WAS a picture of clerical modernity: a vicar with a mobile phone taking lessons in self-defence from a former police officer.

In the light of a recent survey showing that nearly one in 10 clerics has been attacked and nearly one in three threatened, the Christian Resources Exhibition, an annual event at Sandown Park, in Esher, Surrey, invited a former Metropolitan Police middleweight boxing champion to teach members of the clergy self-defence tactics.

The Rev Simon Evans, 38, of Telford Park, in Streatham, south London, has been threatened countless times. "It's usually when someone's trying to push my front door through at 2am and my wife and children are in bed," he said. "I can smell the drink on their breath and they come up with some elaborate story about why they want money. Then, when you start saying, 'We don't give money at the door,' their whole demeanour changes and becomes threatening."

The visits come in "fits and starts": sometimes he has two or three 2am calls in a week, and sometimes none for a month, but he always feels compelled to go to the door – every so often it is "the genuine emergency". "They hit the time when you're going to bed or you've been asleep, when you're not thinking straight," he said. "I feel particularly vulnerable because I think they can catch me off my guard."

But next time, Rev Evans will be better prepared. Peter Hodkinson, who set himself up as a self-protection instructor when he retired from the Metropolitan Police a year ago, taught him some basic defensive moves. "Simple skills work," he said. "They have to be techniques that people can realistically remember in high-stress, confrontational situations. We're talking about pushing, pulling, punching and kicking – those sorts of things."

Such defensive tactics may not come naturally to priests, who are usually trained to reach out rather than lash out, but according to a survey conducted by the Christian Resources Exhibition, more than one in three clerics would like some training in self-defence.

Mr Hodkinson said he could not believe he was being asked to train clerics. "I thought: 'Surely I don't need to teach clergy about self-defence. You would have thought they would be as safe as anyone could be. But times are changing."

Dounreay officials order shake-up of key safety jobs

By Charles Arthur
Science and Technology Editor

MANAGERS at the Dounreay nuclear reprocessing facility have thrown the privatisation of staff jobs into reverse, after a series of potentially disastrous incidents in recent weeks.

The shake-up, involving more than 60 key jobs overseeing and ensuring safety, shows that the UK Atomic Energy Authority – which operates Dounreay – is under increasing pressure to raise safety standards, with inspection visits due next month from the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) and MPs concerned that the plant has become an unsafe liability.

Dr Roy Nelson, the site director, said yesterday in a letter to all 1,400 staff that "none of us should be complacent about our safety performance" and admitted that "some of the criticism [of recent events at Dounreay] is deserved".

The changes include siting six extra radiation protection advisers on the coastal site near Caithness, northern Scotland, transferring 20 managers from privatised contractors to the full-time staff of the site, and hiring 40 more people to work in engineering.

Dounreay has come under the microscope since the Government volunteered it to reprocess spent reactor fuel from the former Soviet republic of Georgia. Since then there have been a number of accidents, including a major power failure when a mechanical digger cut through the main power cable and the emergency back-up power system failed to take over.

Managers at the site have been criticised over the latter incident because they waited for an hour before declaring an emergency.

The plant, which opened in 1954 to produce plutonium for Britain's weapons programme, has suffered a series of safety lapses – the most dramatic coming in 1974, when material in an underground storage shaft exploded, blowing off a concrete plug. Making it safe, the aim of an ongoing project, will cost at least £400m.

Dr Nelson made it clear that "UKAEA has already decided that a stronger in-house management team is desirable", and that privatisation of senior posts will be reversed after 2001, when its contract with consultants WS Atkins ends.

Dr Nelson said: "We must learn lessons from past mistakes and take remedial action promptly where we can see that it will help." He added: "Safe and responsible operations at Dounreay will only be achieved with the full commitment of everyone on site".

The NII inspection will be one of the most exhaustive ever performed.

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'The Fast Show' BBC-2

Best Light Entertainment Performance
Paul Whitehouse, 'The Fast Show' BBC-2

Best Actress
Daniella Nardini, 'This Life' BBC-2

Best Drama Series
'Jonathan Creek' BBC-1

Best Drama Serial
'Holding On' BBC-2

Best Factual Series
'The Nazis - A Warning From History' BBC-2

News and Current Affairs Journalism
'Valentina's Story' (Panorama) BBC-1

Technical & Craft

Best Editing (Factual)
'The Nazis - A Warning From History' BBC-2
Alan Lygo/James Hay

Best Editing (Fiction/Ent)
'The Lakes' BBC-1
Roy Sharman

Best Make-Up/Hair
'Tom Jones' BBC-1

Best Photography (Factual)
'Polar Bear' (Wildlife Special) BBC-1

Best Photography and Lighting (Fiction/Ent)
'The Woman In White' BBC-1

Best Costume Designs
'Tom Jones' BBC-1

Best Graphic Design
'Election 97' BBC-1
Mike Afford/Ceri Kaplan

Best Sound (Factual)
'Airport' BBC-1

Best Sound (Fiction/Ent)
'The Lakes' BBC-1

Best Design
'The Woman in White' BBC-1

Original Television Music
'Tom Jones' BBC-1

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'Supertax' proposed on second homes to support rural buyers priced out of market

By Esther Leach

LYNN WALKER counts herself very lucky. She lives in one of a handful of three-bedroomed houses built for locals only in a Lakeland village where at least 70 per cent of the houses are either holiday cottages or second homes.

She waited months to move into the pebble-dashed house in the village of Chapel Stile, near Ambleside, where she has lived with her family for 15 years. "I would never give up this house easily, simply because there would be nowhere else to go. As it is my son who works in Ambleside and his family could only manage to find a flat."

Mrs Walker, 47, was speaking as South Lakeside District Council agreed to set up a working party to explore ways of introducing a "super-tax" on second homes through a private member's Bill.

"These houses," she said turning to look at her own, "are part of the answer but only a few are built because of a shortage of land or because of planning difficulties. I think there ought to be more but it's not so simple when you live in a national park.

"I do think second home owners should pay their way by contributing to the cost of living here. They shouldn't get away with paying half the community charge."

It is a sentiment shared by Nelly and Fred Mallet, both in their seventies, who have lived all their lives in Chapel Stile. "We have nothing against the people who have second homes or run holiday cottages here; we don't see them often enough to dislike them", said Mrs Mallet. "What we do object to is the fact that some of them don't pay the full community charge as we do. And if you think that most of us have to save up to pay this tax, it really does rankle.

"If they paid up perhaps the council would have more money to spend on services and then we would all benefit. Some of the holiday home rents are £400 and £500 a week. Surely they must be able to pay more in the way of taxes than they do."

The district council yesterday agreed to Councillor Stan Collins' motion call for a working party to be set up. He wants to take the problem, which he described as destroying communities, to the House of Commons, arguing that a supertax would generate income to build affordable housing for locals.

He said second-home owners contributed very little to local communities but benefited from the "ludicrous" 50 per cent community charge discount the council was forced to give them. He reckoned the council loses £1.7m a year because of it.

Another loss to the council, he said, was the income from commercial holiday homes whose owners pay a non-domestic rate straight to the Government. Any returns the council got by way of grants he argued was "minuscule".

He wants the district council and other local authorities to be able to charge a four-figure sum tax on second homes with the money earned dedicated to creating affordable housing for local people.

'We've nothing against holiday cottage owners,' say Chapel Stile locals. 'We don't see them often enough' Photograph: Richard Rayner/North News

Soldier's wife was 'groped' by chaplain

AN ARMY chaplain touched a soldier's wife's breast before asking her to make love to him, a court martial was told yesterday.

Captain Richard Landall put his hands down her knickers as she was changing a video for her daughter and tried to kiss her on the lips. The 41-year-old chaplain had also made saucy remarks to another soldier's wife, wolf whistling at her and shouting "Phwooar" from his car window as he drove past.

The court martial in Tidworth, Wiltshire, heard that Capt Landall was "a flirt" and found it difficult to control his amorous nature.

The chaplain to the 2nd Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers denies four charges of indecently assaulting a soldier's wife and an alternative of harassing her, as well as harassing Fusilier Sean Brazier, harassing Shelly Brazier and conduct to the prejudice of good order by undue familiarity to Shelly Brazier. The alleged incidents took place during 1997 at Celle, Germany.

Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Lewis, prosecuting, told the hearing how Landall visited a soldier's wife who had sought counselling from him over marriage difficulties. He made "improper remarks" about her appearance, telling her: "I could fancy you."

A few days later Landall went with the couple to visit their neighbours for a drink. Lt-Col Lewis said: "During the evening the woman had her neighbour's infant daughter sat on her knee. The padre sat next to her... [he] put his arm around her waist, under her jumper and squeezed her breast."

The hearing was told that, as he was fondling her, Landall asked her to make love to him before he left Germany.

The following day he sent her flowers and a note reading: "Thank you for being there for me. Sorry about my behaviour last night – too much to drink."

Just days later, Landall turned up at the woman's house as she was bathing three children, Lt-Col Lewis said. "The padre went into the bathroom to join her and stood right up behind her, rubbing his groin against her posterior."

On another occasion Landall put his hand down the back of the woman's jogging trousers as she was kneeling down to change a video for her daughter. He then kissed her on the lips as he was leaving the house.

The hearing heard that Landall also showed a keen interest in Shelly Brazier, 27, the wife of a fusilier. Landall apologised in a type-written letter, saying: "I'm sorry for causing you any offence and embarrassment... Unfortunately I'm a flirt and have been all my life. I know I will have to curb and control my flirting ... or I will be in deep trouble."

Mrs Brazier denied suggestions by defence counsel Alison Barker that she had turned an innocent friendship into something more smutty.

The hearing continues.

Leading article, page 20

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Euro could create another Bosnia, says Hague

By Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

A DIRE warning that the single currency could turn Europe into another war-torn Bosnia, or an unstable Indonesia, was issued by William Hague last night.

Delivering a speech that will delight Conservative Euro-sceptics and dismay pro-Europeans like Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine, the Tory party leader echoed the long-standing warnings of Lord Tebbit – that extremism, and violence could be whipped up by the creation of an artificial European superstate.

"Push political union beyond its limits," he said at the Fontainebleau business school he himself attended, "and you jeopardise the very peace, stability and prosperity which Europe's post-war statesmen were so anxious to secure. My fear is that the creation of a single currency will take European political union well beyond its acceptable limits."

For good measure, Mr Hague noted that the euro would be irreversible, and added: "One could find oneself trapped in the economic equivalent of a burning building with no exits."

But it was his warning against the political consequences of the drive to a superstate that will excite the Euro-sceptic right of his party.

"The lesson of Yugoslavia and the Russian Federation is that it is dangerous to force disparate peoples into a common political unit unless they already feel a sense of national affinity," Mr Hague said. "In Asia, those countries that have had the most violent reactions to the financial crisis have been those countries that do not have the safety valve of democratic elections. How will the peoples of Europe react to a recession without the electoral means of changing the people responsible?"

In a speech riddled with fear and foreboding, Mr Hague said: "I fear that the European Union is in danger; in danger of accepting without debate a political destination agreed 40 years ago; in danger of proceeding with political integration not because it is right, but because it is said to be inevitable ..."

Those fears were fuelled by economic, strategic and political arguments, but Mr Hague added: "I fear that a single currency could push us beyond the limits to union ...

"It would be to cross a line and abandon the independence of nation states with all the consequences for the future stability of Europe which I have set out today.

"The centre would have more power than the component parts. It would have neither legitimacy nor accountability since there can be no real accountability except in nation states.

"That is why I fear the political consequences of the single currency. For this reason the British Conservative Party is against British membership of the single currency now, and subject to a ballot of party members, intends to oppose it at the next general election."

Earlier, Mr Clarke, the former chancellor, warned that if Mr Hague could not reunite the Tories over Europe, "we aren't going to win any elections, we aren't going to come back from Opposition."

He urged his leader to go beyond the familiar litany of opposition to the euro for another nine years – through to the end of the next Parliament. "We have had 25 years since we signed the Treaty of Rome of people telling us that our national identity is at risk and our democracy is threatened. It hasn't happened."

MP aims to lower gay sex age limit

By Anthony Bevins

AN EQUAL age of consent for gays, lesbians and heterosexuals was backed by a Labour MP and her gay son yesterday – ahead of a Commons vote that is expected to push the reform through next month.

Campaigning for a reduction in the age of consent for gays and lesbians from 18 to 16, Ann Keen, MP for Brentford and Isleworth, told a London press conference: "What parent would want their child to suffer in any way, to feel different or ashamed? We need to give them self-esteem."

Her son, Mark Lloyd-Fox, 31, director of development at The Commonwealth Institute, said: "It's difficult for all lesbian and gay people when the environment around you is bombarding you with everything heterosexual. To grow up with that being the expectation of the norm, and to feel different, and then to have that legal difference that makes it feel criminal, that makes things much more difficult."

The age of consent for gays and lesbians was lowered from 21 to 18 in 1994, amending the Sexual Offences Act, which legalised gay sex for the first time in 1967. But a Commons free vote to create a common age of consent was defeated by 307 votes to 280. Given the strength of Labour's majority, it is expected that MPs will vote overwhelmingly for equality before the law when an attempt is made to amend the Crime and Disorder Bill next month.

Angela Mason, executive director of Stonewall, the gay rights campaign group, said she was confident that if it went through the Commons, the Lords, too, would back it.

"I don't think there will be any attempt by the Right to bring out the backwoodsmen and overturn this amendment," she said.

OutRage!, another lesbian and gay rights group, will this morning be staging a protest outside the London Oratory School, on the 10th anniversary of the enactment of the Section 28 ban on the promotion of homosexuality by local authorities.

MPs joined protesters against the fur trade outside the Commons yesterday. Sweltering in a metal cage were (from left) Ian Cawsey (Lab), David Lepper (Lab), Norman Baker (Lib Dem), Mike Hancock (Lib Dem) and Vernon Coaker (Lab) Photograph: Andrew Stuart/PA

New move to clear pilots in Chinook crash

By Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

THE families of two dead RAF pilots yesterday presented new evidence to the Ministry of Defence to clear them of the "slur" that they were to blame for the Chinook helicopter crash in which 25 top security officers died.

But the Armed Forces Minister, John Reid, said last night that the evidence appeared to be "recycling old theories" although the MoD would review their claims.

His response disappointed an all-party group of MPs which had backed the families in calling for a review to clear the two pilots, Flt Lt Jonathan Tapper and Flt Lt Rick Cook.

They were found guilty of "gross negligence" by an RAF tribunal.

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on defence, urged George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, to open a fresh inquiry. "I remain convinced that there has been a miscarriage of justice here," he said.

The families believe the navigational computer software may have been to blame for the helicopter crashing into a hillside in thick fog on the Mull of Kintyre killing all 29 on board. The board of inquiry found pilot error was to blame.

A former RAF test pilot Sqn Ldr Robert Burke and Malcolm Perks, an expert in aviation computers, told the MoD that a more likely explanation for the accident included the possibility of a control "jam" caused by part of the flying controls becoming detached, and an engine "runaway" due to a failure of the aircraft's FADEC computer software.

"These two were first-class pilots, some of the best in the world. To have this slur against their names is quite intolerable," said Flt Lt Tapper's father, Michael Tapper.

Calling for a new official inquiry, he added: "It's bad for morale if pilots think that, whatever they do, if they have a crash there is a chance they will be told they are grossly negligent."

Sqn Ldr Burke said that when he was in the RAF he had been ordered not to discuss the crash with anyone.

"I have come to the conclusion that the verdict of 'gross negligence' is totally unfair. It is unjust," he said.

"If you blame the pilots, virtually everything else you can gloss over as a cause of the accident."

Mr Perks described the Chinook's FADEC system as "high risk". He also argued that the simulation used by the board of inquiry to recreate the accident had been "flawed".

The other MPs backing the call for the inquiry to be re-opened were senior Labour backbencher Martin O'Neill; James Arbuthnot, a former Conservative defence minister; Robert Key, a former transport minister, and Crispin Blunt a former special adviser at the MoD.

The families' latest call for a fresh inquiry came 24 hours after the Commons Select Committee on Defence found that there was no evidence of "fundamental flaws" in the aircraft's basic design which may have caused the crash.

Dr Reid said yesterday: "The Ministry of Defence has taken no pleasure at all in the findings which the RAF board of inquiry found themselves obliged to reach."

Blunkett presents £20m grant for 20,000 childcare places

By Glenda Cooper
Social Affairs Correspondent

CHILDCARE campaigners yesterday said that the national childcare strategy – creating a million places for children – was a "once in a lifetime opportunity", while warning that the proposed expansion must not be at the expense of quality.

The Government finally unveiled its Green Paper on childcare, pledging to make a "real difference".

David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, announced an extra £20m to provide 20,000 childcare places, as well as including £4m to train childcare workers and an extra £2m to fund the development of local childcare partnerships.

This adds to the £300m pledged by the Chancellor in last year's Budget to establish new childcare places over the next five years. From September, every four-year-old is guaranteed a free nursery place. The childcare tax credit for working families will also cover childcare costs of up to £105 a week for a family with two or more children.

Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security, said the strategy marked an end to public policy that was neither "child- nor family-friendly". "For too long, public policy was made by people who thought nurseries were somewhere you visited on a Sunday to buy your bedding plants," she said.

Local authorities will have to carry out a "Domesday audit" of the childcare in their area by the end of the year, so that targets can be set in the next Budget.

"Our aim is to ensure good quality affordable childcare for children aged up to 14 in every neighbourhood in England," said Mr Blunkett.

The Daycare Trust today welcomed the plans, saying it was a "once in a lifetime opportunity to close the childcare gap". The Trust's director, Colette Kelleher, said: "Now the Government must provide the resources and guidance to make the strategy work. The challenge also lies with local authorities, training and enterprise councils and employers to work together to deliver the strategy..."

Margaret Lochrie, chief executive of the Pre-school Learning Alliance, said: "The Green Paper delivers a clear promise to parents ... However, there is a tremendous shortage of places ... and there can be no guarantees that, in the short term, parents will be able to find the nurseries and pre-schools that they need."

Suzanne Moore, page 21

Unison throws down challenges to Blair

By Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

LABOUR'S largest union affiliate yesterday urged the Government to abandon attempts to involve business in the public sector and called for a minimum wage £1 an hour higher then the figure expected.

The Unison public-service union also expressed misgivings about the employment-rights package due to be announced tomorrow. The union also nominated a representative for Labour's national executive who will be considered "off-message" by Downing Street.

Delegates to Unison's political conference in Torquay voted for abolition of the Private Finance Initiative, which the Government is pursuing as a means of winning private finance for public projects. The 80 delegates insisted the proposed statutory national minimum wage should be £4.61, whereas later this month the Low Pay Commission is expected to recommend to ministers a figure of £3.60.

Unison's senior activists selected the increasingly prominent Anne Picking as one of its two representatives on the party executive. She replaces Christine Wilde, who has been held partly responsible for the union's inability to bring a left-wing influence to bear on Labour. By a 41-39 majority the conference defeated a motion that would have committed Labour's most influential group to the repel of all union legislation since 1979. It would have allowed unfettered secondary action and paved the way for unions to alter their rule books to allow strikes without ballots.

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Suharto's offer of reform falls on deaf ears

By Richard Lloyd Parry and Stephen Vines in Jakarta

INDONESIA faces more demonstrations today after a nationwide address in which President Suharto defied demands for his immediate resignation.

There was an air of disaster in the capital as shops, banks and businesses were boarded up. Expatriates and rich Indonesians flew out after the President warned of "bloodshed and even civil war" if the protests went ahead as planned.

He went further than ever towards acceding to demands for reform but his offer of elections later this year, after a revision of election laws, was not enough to satisfy the opposition.

"Indonesia will witness ... demonstrations all over this country," Amien Rais, the main opposition leader, said. "Especially after the nation listened to the very disappointing statement ... I think people will be more motivated to come down to the streets to protest. They will again and again and again stage the demonstrations ... until finally the old man goes for ever."

Mr Suharto's environment minister, Juwono Sudarsono, said later that the elections would be held within six months, and that there will be a new president by the end of the year.

But Mr Suharto's failure personally to set out a timetable did nothing to defuse the atmosphere of angry impatience among student demonstrators and their leaders.

In parliament there were tumultuous scenes as some 15,000 students, unhindered by soldiers or police, occupied the buildings and grounds, singing, dancing, drumming, waving flags and chanting slogans demanding the President's immediate resignation. In the debating chamber, a hand-drawn picture of a bleeding Suharto was pinned to the great crest of the Republic of Indonesia, while students jumped up and down on the members' seats, and stood at the podium acting out parodies of leading politicians.

Last night several hundred students were camping out in the parliament, and all those questioned rejected the President's promises as a cynical attempt to hold on to power.

"We will stay here every night until our demands are met," said one student in the green blazer of Jakarta's University of Jayabaya. "Suharto must resign immediately, and there must be total reform."

Tens of thousands more are expected to converge on parliament today, although student leaders indicated that they would not take their protest out on to the streets for fear of provoking violence. Last Tuesday six demonstrating students at Jakarta's Trisakti University were shot dead by police snipers, triggering two days of riots and looting in which 500 people died and 3,000 buildings and 1,000 cars were destroyed.

But big demonstrations by ordinary Jakartans are expected in other parts of the city, including Jakarta's Freedom Square, where Dr Rais is expected to appear. He has promised to bring 1 million people on to the streets.

On Monday the chief of the Indonesian armed forces (Abri), General Wiranto, hinted that any repeat of last week's violence would be met with military force.

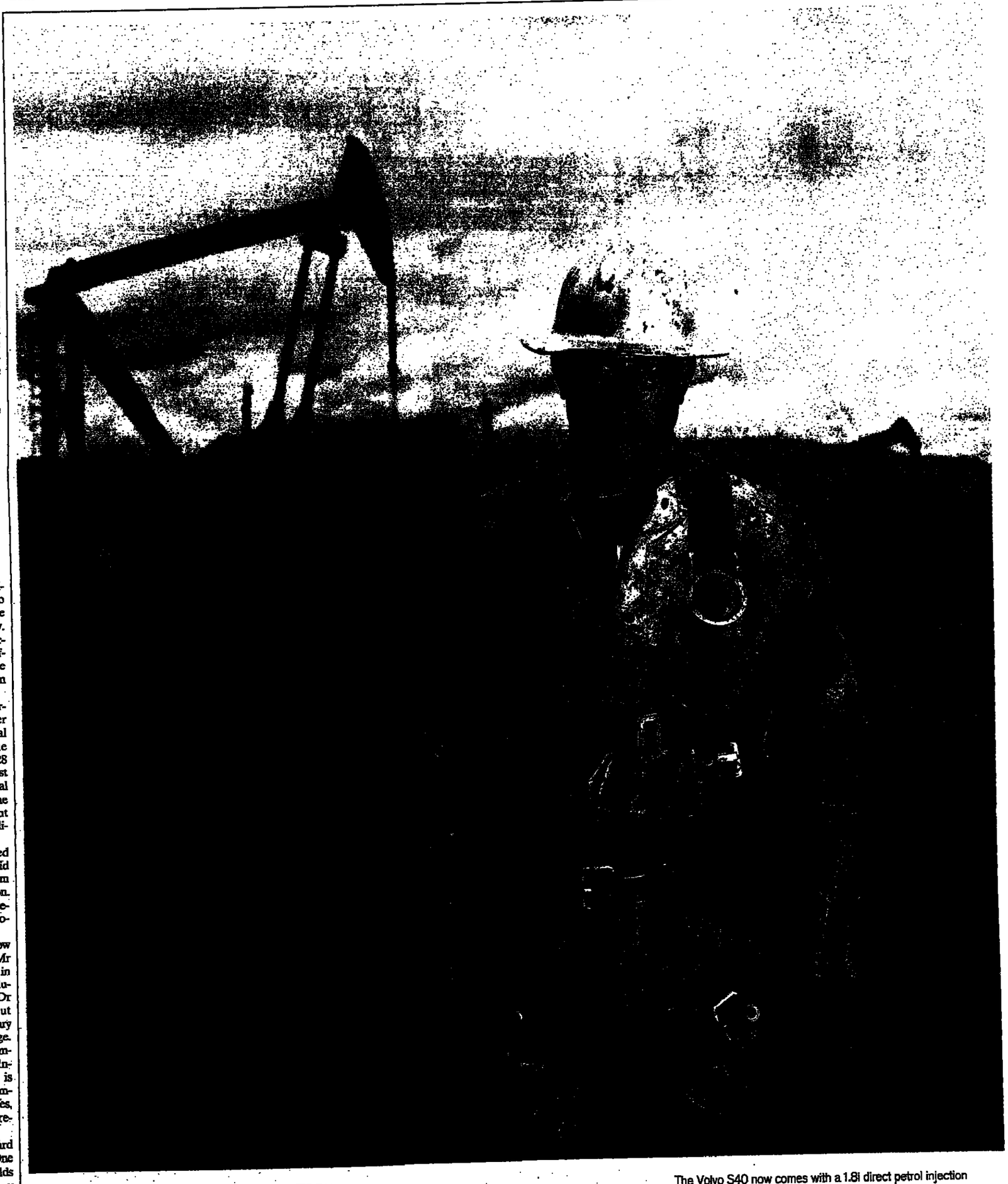
"They were carried by the wave of freedom, and they disturbed the freedom of others," he said. "Abri has the role of stabiliser and safeguard of the constitution and national stability."

Apart from their visible presence on the streets in tanks and armoured cars, the security forces have done almost nothing to interfere with the protests since the Trisakti incident. Any order to use force against peaceful demonstrators would severely test the unity of the military, which is suffering a power struggle of its own between Gen Wiranto and Lieutenant-General Prabowo Subianto, Mr Suharto's son-in-law. But the prospect of violence has had an electrifying effect on the capital.

In a statement the British embassy advised all its citizens to leave Jakarta and those who remained to stay indoors today. More than half the estimated 5,000-strong British community in Indonesia is believed to have left the country. Last night at Jakarta's international airport the departure terminal was under siege by foreigners and ethnic Chinese determined to leave before today's demonstrations.

In Chinatown, where some of the worst looting in the capital was seen last week, residents were prepared for the worst. "I am really afraid", said a young resident. "I don't know what will happen to us after the demonstrations".

Students protesting on top of the Indonesian Parliament yesterday in advance of President Suharto's pledge not to stand for re-election Photograph: AP

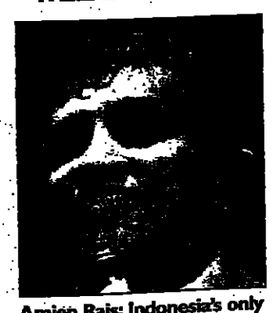


Rise and rise of the man who would be king

By Richard Lloyd Parry

IN THE six days since riots and demonstrations in Jakarta turned into something close to a popular uprising, Indonesians have crossed many thresholds. One of the most striking occurred two days ago in a chamber of the House of Representatives. The room contains only one item of colour: the golden Garuda, or mythical eagle, of the Republic of Indonesia, flanked on one side by a stern portrait of the president.

A man in traditional head-dress was speaking about his travels around the archipelago. "I have ... come to one conclusion," he said, pointing at the photograph. "*He has to go*, and the sooner the better." The students present cheered; the politicians looked grave.



Amien Rais: Indonesia's only credible opposition leader

It is a crime to "insult" the president. Nobody had publicly jabbed their finger at his image, hanging in the toy parliament the President created for himself. Only one man could make such a gesture, and if Indonesia does rise up again today it will in large part be the responsibility of the same man.

Amien Rais, 54, the political scientist who has become Indonesia's only credible opposition leader, has promised to bring 1 million people on to the streets of the capital today. Even if he enlists a small fraction of that, it will be more difficult than ever to imagine President Suharto's 32 years in power lasting much longer.

Dr Rais's principal power-base has been Islam. As leader of Muhammadiyah, a social and religious organisation, he commands the loyalty of its 28 million members. In the past year he has widened his appeal by a simple means: almost alone of Indonesia's most prominent opposition figures, he has directly criticised Mr Suharto.

Dr Rais has not demonised Mr Suharto: this week he said it would be important to let him leave office without humiliation. During his speech Dr Rais presented a step-by-step programme of reform.

Student demonstrators know what they don't like about Mr Suharto. It is encapsulated in their slogan "Corruption, collusion and nepotism". But Dr Rais speaks in detail about moves to strengthen the judiciary and abolish political patronage.

Dr Rais has acquired a command of English that few Indonesians possess. He is straightforward about his ambitions. He said yesterday: "Yes, I am more than willing to replace him."

But two things make it hard to imagine a President Rais. One is the military, which still wields more collective power than any single opposition figure. The second is his personality. He is respected but not loved: Christians and other minority religions fear him as an Islamic populist. It is the bad luck of Indonesians that even the bravest among them cannot entirely be trusted.

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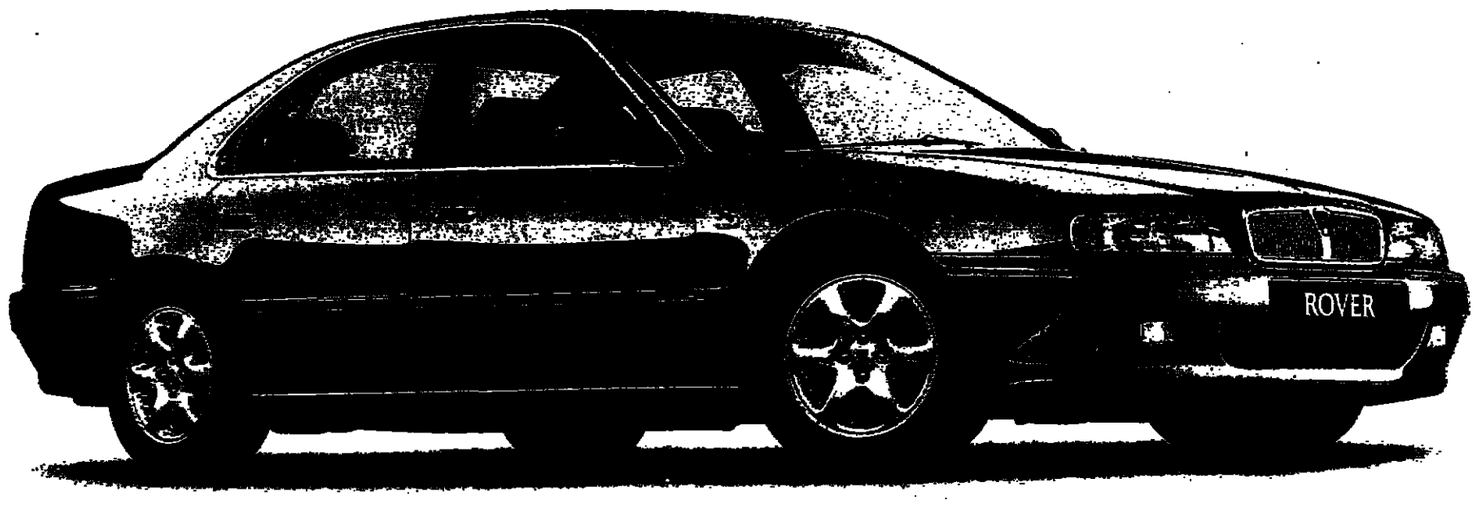

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Rwanda braced for return of the killer militias

By Mary Braid
in Kigali

COLONEL Frank Mugambage stretches his hand and cracks his knuckles. Rwanda, he insists, has defeated the Interahamwe extremists who incited Hutus to massacre 800,000 of their fellow Tutsi countrymen as well as moderate Hutus in 1994.

But more than 18 months after a million Hutu refugees returned from camps in eastern Congo (formerly Zaire), where they had fled following a slaughter in which many of them had taken part, Mr Mugambage, the Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu's chief of staff, is having a hard time convincing his traumatised nation that the murderers will never return.

The hard fact for the government, now led by Tutsis, is that the enemy has regrouped and is once again within. The *genocidaires*, who slipped back into Rwanda with the refugees or remained in Zaire, are making inroads in the north-west provinces of Gisenyi and Ruhengeri, the cradle of Hutu extremism.

The government denies United Nations and human rights groups' allegations that its troops – once hailed as heroes for ending the genocide – have wiped out communities in the north-west and inside Zaire accused of supporting the Interahamwe. Mr Mugambage said this week that Rwandan troops were disciplined and the situation was under control. Few outside the government accept that assertions. Most international aid agencies have pulled out of the north-west.

Politically it is difficult for the Tutsis, though they preach reconciliation and include Hutus in the government, to contemplate any political arrangement which involves them ceding control. The Tutsis carry with them the memory that every institution in Rwanda, from the church to the judiciary, was implicated in the slaughter.

The capital, Kigali, bustles with returnee Tutsis who fled to Burundi and Uganda to escape previous pogroms. Raised in refugee camps on dreams of returning to the motherland, they have come home to replace those who perished.

But their hopes that the conflict could be confined to the Hutu heartlands was shattered last month following attacks near Gitarama, only 45 minutes drive from Kigali.

This week Gitarama was swarming with government troops. The old extremists are audacious. "Two came out of the bush a week ago," says Venuste Higiro, who lives just a few minutes drive from Gitarama. "They demanded food and money from us and said the killers would follow." The village, torn between fear of the Interahamwe and fear of the army, reported the encounter to the soldiers.

Rwanda expelled Jose-Luis Herrero, the country's UN human rights spokesman, two weeks ago after he criticised Rwanda's first public execution of 22 convicted *genocidaires*. The government was already angry at UN allegations about atrocities and human rights groups' claims that people are starving in Rwandan jails, where 130,000 alleged perpetrators await trial. The government also snubbed UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan.

The government believes the UN, which failed to stop the 1994 genocide, can not assume the moral high ground. The row has split aid agencies. One charity official said: "It is not up to the international community to dictate to Rwanda how to solve huge problems when it fed the Interahamwe for two years in the Zairean refugee camps."

Advocats sans Frontières, representing the *genocidaires*, says criticism of Rwanda for not offering fair trials is unfounded. Marie-elle Hallez, the body's co-ordinator, says the Rwandans have created a fair justice system despite pitiful resources.

And the executions, so the government argues, were needed to restore the rule of law and encourage the guilty to confess and testify against others in exchange for lesser charges.

Others insist international guilt about the genocide is encouraging people to turn a blind eye to government atrocities.

Refugees who fled to the former Zaire after the slaughter in Rwanda. Many refugees, however, were perpetrators of the genocide

Colombians demand an end to murder

By Phil Davison
in Bogota

CHURCH BELLS around the nation sounded simultaneously yesterday as Colombians, sickened by the latest series of politically-motivated assassinations and massacres, marched for peace.

In Bogota, residents on foot or in cars, many wearing white or waving white handkerchiefs, stopped in the streets for three minutes of silence "in the hope that the guns, too, fall silent." Radio stations went off the air for the same period. Thousands of residents formed human chains, holding hands along main avenues before gathering in the central Bolivar square.

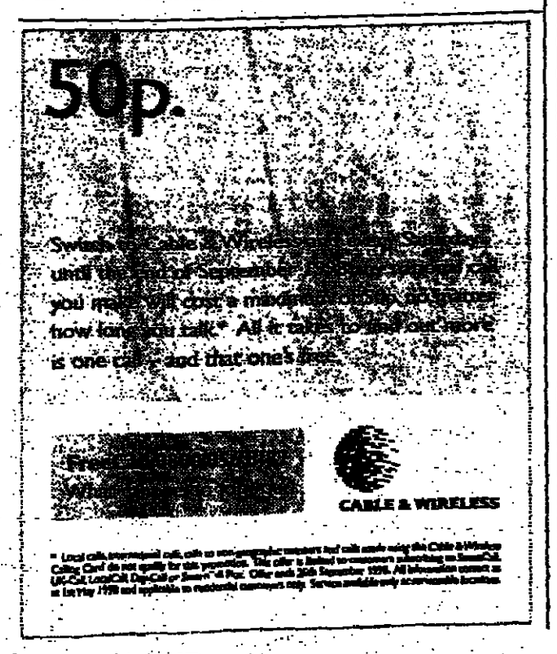
Carrying placards saying "We want peace," children marched in the worst areas of violence – the north-western Uraba region and south-eastern Meta province – where Marxist guerrillas or right-wing paramilitary groups control much of the countryside and the Colombian army has little control.

In the northern town of Barrancabermeja, residents marched after burying a dozen victims of the latest massacre, apparently carried out by a paramilitary group on Saturday night. They carried placards calling on the authorities to trace 43 people, mostly young men, taken away by the gunmen in lorries and whom many fear may be already dead.

With eerie echoes of the former Yugoslavia, the gunmen spoke of "fumigating" and *limpieza* (cleansing), referring to their claims that their victims were members or sympathisers of the Marxist guerrillas.

With presidential elections less than two weeks ago, Colombia has been shaken by a series of assassinations, of human rights workers and a former defence minister, and the string of massacres blamed mainly on right-wing paramilitary groups. Many Colombians fear the election on 31 Mayis under threat, with the recent violence the worst since the 1989-90 pre-election period, in which three presidential candidates, were killed.

Human Rights activists believe the army supports the paramilitary groups and uses them as a front in a "dirty war" by killing guerrilla sympathisers or their families.



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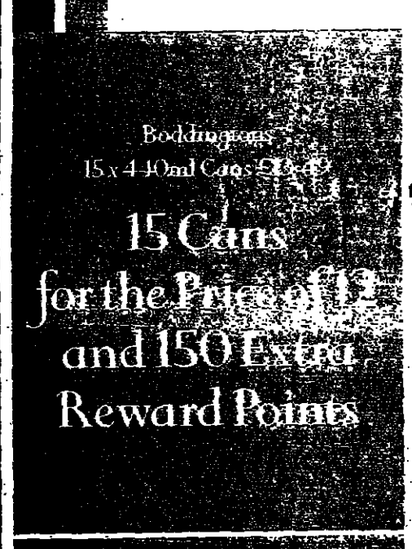

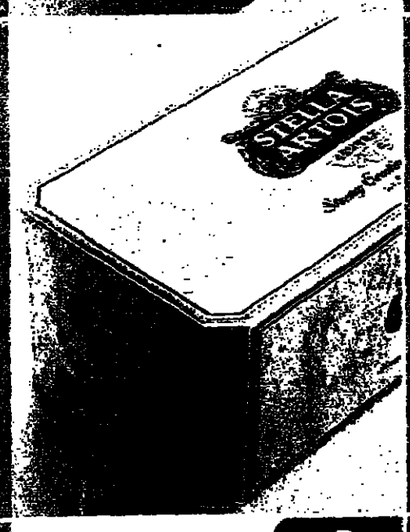

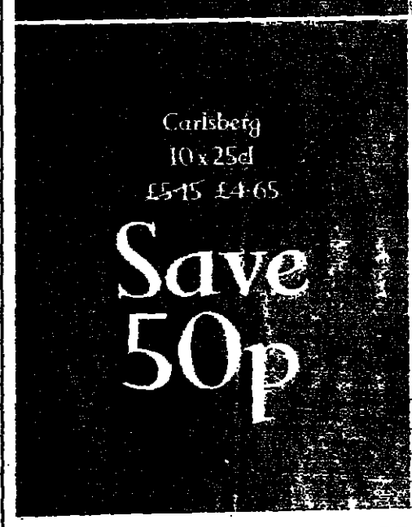

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Shock at aide's loose talk about Israeli PM's wife

By Patrick Cockburn
in Jerusalem

ROLLING HIS EYES at the mention of her name, David Bar-Illan, senior aide to Benjamin Netanyahu, expressed his thoughts about Sara Netanyahu, the Prime Minister's wife.

"Look, Sara isn't the most stable woman in the world," said Mr Bar-Illan. "She now appears only at appropriate events, receptions for children, events for mentally retarded or the handicapped, and that works well. That's okay. At last, Sara has turned into a boring subject for Israelis. Were she to run half-naked in the streets, it would be different, but she's under control."

Mr Bar-Illan, a former concert pianist and newspaper editor who is politically on the far-right, is usually urbane and softly spoken. But yesterday the Prime Minister's office was politely wondering if he might not temporarily have gone insane. A senior Israeli official said: "If Bar-Illan said such things then he's apparently lost his wits." Meanwhile, Israel is waiting to see if Sara will ask her husband to fire him.

It was a bizarre interview to give to the *New Yorker*. Apparently, Mr Bar-Illan knew he was on the record when he spoke to the magazine's correspondent David Remnick about the political difficulties created by Mr Netanyahu's admission of adultery on television in 1993. "It's one thing to have an affair with a *shiksa*," Mr Bar-Illan said, using the derogatory Yiddish term for a non-Jewish woman. "Even rabbis do this with *shiksa*. But with a married woman?"

Nobody knows why Mr Bar-Illan volunteered this information to Mr Remnick. Mr Bar-Illan has been denying he said anything of the sort, though officials in the Prime Minister's office are quoted as saying he frequently makes derogatory remarks about Sara Netanyahu. They say he once comforted an office worker whom Sara had yelled at by saying: "Don't take her seriously. She has to be related to as though she's a three-year-old."

Sara Netanyahu has largely disappeared from public view since she fired a nanny for burning the soup and had the Prime Minister's security men forcibly eject her from the home. The former air stewardess is given to jealous rages, according to some witnesses, but there is no sign that she has influence on government policy.

She is deeply protective of her children. When one attended a kindergarten she insisted that a bodyguard be in attendance at all times.

In discussing the attitude of most Israelis to Mr Netanyahu's admission of adultery, Mr Bar-Illan says: "For many years nobody in Israel cared about things like that. Moshe Dayan screwed half the women in the army."

That remark has angered the Dayan family, notably Yael Dayan, his daughter and a member of the Knesset, and her mother Ruth. They said they would complain about Mr Bar-Illan to the attorney general.

The *New Yorker* article also quoted a United States official commenting on the cool relations between Mr Netanyahu and President Bill Clinton. "We relate to him [Netanyahu] as though he is the President of Bulgaria," said the unnamed official. "In fact, I think that Clinton went out on a run with the President of Bulgaria, so this comparison isn't fair."

The snideness of this remark reflects Mr Netanyahu's unpopularity in many quarters, but also frustration at his success. Despite endless negotiations, the US has been unable to get the Israeli Prime Minister to move on the Oslo accords with the Palestinians.

Sara Netanyahu: Described by Mr Bar-Illan as unstable but under control — Photograph: Sipa/Rex

IN BRIEF

Mafia baron on the run

PASQUALE CUNTRERA, link-man between the Sicilian Mafia and Latin American cartels, eluded police 48 hours before Italy's supreme court was due to confirm his 21-year sentence for trafficking. Officers found no sign of the wheelchair-bound Cuntrera, 63, in his home near Rome. He was freed on 6 May when a court ruled on a technicality that there was no justification for extending the preventive detention of the man who ran one of the world's biggest drug-trafficking operations.

— *Anne Honley, Rome*

MPs defiant

MONTENEGRO'S parliament voted not to recognise a new Yugoslav government headed by the Montenegrin opposition leader Momir Bulatovic, named prime minister-designate by the Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic in defiance of Montenegrin warnings that the ousting of the outgoing federal premier Radoje Kontic was illegal.

— *Reuters, Podgorica*

Home alone

THE owner of a summer cottage in north-west Poland lost access to it after someone stole an 18-ton steel bridge leading to it. It was apparently cut into bits and hauled away. The owner had last visited his summer home in March.

— *AP, Warsaw*

US cracks Mexican banks' drug links

THE BIGGEST drugs money laundering ring in US history has been broken after a three-year operation, investigators in Washington and Los Angeles have announced. The targets of Operation Casablanca are some of Mexico's largest financial institutions, raising tensions once again across the Rio Grande, **writes Andrew Marshall in Washington.**

Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Attorney General Janet Reno jointly announced the indictments. They said it was the first time that Mexican banks and bank officials were "directly linked to laundering the Cali and Juarez cartels' US drug profits." Cali, a city in Colombia, has been at the heart of cocaine smuggling; Ciudad Juarez is just across the border from El Paso in Texas.

A total of 112 people were arrested, and $35m (£21m) in drugs money was seized as well as two tons of cocaine and four tons of marijuana. Customs officers gathered evidence by "infiltrating the highest levels of this international drug trafficking financial infrastructure," Mr Rubin said.

The Mexican Finance Ministry and Attorney-General's office said that they would "cooperate fully with the US government".

The indictment charges that three banks, and 26 bankers, laundered millions of dollars in drug profits. The three banks charged with laundering were Mexico's second and third largest banks, Bancomer and Banca Serfin, and Banco Confia. The British bank HSBC holds a stake in Serfin, and Confia is owned by Citibank. The Federal Reserve Board also filed civil actions against Banco Nacional de Mexico, Banco Internacional and Banco Santander of Spain.

Americans to raise retirement age to 70

KEEP WORKING: that, it seems, is the message for America's baby-boomer generation. Another five years of hard labour lies ahead of most Americans if a new retirement plan issued yesterday is accepted, **writes Andrew Marshall.**

The plan is an attempt to address concern about the shortfalls in America's social security system, which on current projections will not be able to pay out all the money necessary as more people retire than come into the system. It would raise the retirement age to 70 by 2029 – it was already due to rise to 67 over the next few decades – and raise the early retirement age to 65 from 62 by 2017.

The plan is part of the revolution in pension systems that is sweeping the world as nations try to keep up with the bulge in population caused by the post-war baby boom, rising costs and static or dwindling revenues.

It was drawn up by the National Commission on Retirement Policy, a bipartisan group of Congressmen, businessmen and academics, working with the Washington-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies. The plan touches one of the hottest topics in America: how to ensure people get what they need after they retire without bankrupting the US. Retirees are an influential pressure group in the US.

The core idea is to introduce a measure of private investment for the first time into the American social security system. At the moment, 12.4 per cent of a worker's salary is deducted from wages for social security, and matched by the employer. Under the new plan, 2 percentage points of that could be invested in stocks or bonds. The plan would keep the social security system solvent for at least 75 years, the panel estimated.

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Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa, with the Cuban President, Fidel Castro, in Geneva yesterday for the 50th anniversary celebrations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) Photograph: Reuters

Cook's dash to Turkey fails to heal EU rift

By Rupert Cornwell
in Ankara

HOPES of a quick thaw in Turkey's relations with the European Union were dashed last night as Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, failed to persuade Ankara to attend the annual EU/Turkey Association Council scheduled for Brussels next Monday.

By travelling as far as Ankara and back inside a single day, Mr Cook had hoped to convince Turkey of Britain's and Europe's anxiety to make a new start in relations, after the rupture last December in Luxembourg, when EU leaders refused to start accession negotiations – making clear there was no chance of Turkey entering the EU in the foreseeable future.

The idea had been that the association council take place on the basis of an agreed new EU strategy document which would, in the words of British officials, "prepare Turkey for accession by bringing it closer to Europe in every field". But Turkey's Prime Minister, Mesut Yilmaz, and Ismail Cem, the Foreign Minister, left their visitor in no doubt that Turkey would only attend on its terms.

Yes, it had been a "useful" meeting. Ankara wanted the association council to be held, and preferably during the UK Presidency of the EU which ends on 30 June. But, warned Mr Cem, "only if everything goes as we want. Otherwise it can be held at a later date. We don't want it at any cost, without all the details being settled first."

The stumbling blocks are two. One is Turkey's lingering sense of hurt at what it sees as EU discrimination in the refusal to set a date for accession, which Ankara would like to see reversed at the forthcoming EU Council in Cardiff. But there is scant chance of that.

The other problem, inevitably, is Greece, which is blocking the release of 375m Ecu (£250m) due to Turkey under its 1995 customs union with the EU, and would presumably veto any further promise of money. The Greek Foreign Minister, Theodoros Pangalos, chose the moment of Mr Cook's visit to reaffirm that veto, citing Athens' territorial disputes with Ankara in the Aegean.

Mr Pangalos also insisted that the association council discuss political as well as economic issues. Turkey is happy with the draft as it stands, which mainly expands the customs union into the fields of services and agriculture. But Greece wants human rights and other political topics to feature as well. That, say the Turks, must wait until the EU's "discrimination" is ended.

Mr Cook was stoical about the likely delay in the council meeting. "I'm not disappointed," he said. He will now make a fresh, but probably fruitless, effort to change Athens' mind.

Turkey has hardened its line on Cyprus, backing the insistence of Rauf Denktash, President of the Turkish Cypriot north of the island, that his statelet must be recognised before any involvement in the talks for Cyprus to accede to the EU.

Mr Cook paid a surprise visit in hospital to the leading Turkish human rights campaigner Akin Birdal, who was shot last week. No one has been arrested for the crime. Earlier the Foreign Secretary expressed his dismay at this "ghastly" crime.

Russia's hated traffic police set for an overhaul

By Phil Reeves
in Moscow

IT IS a selling job that would stretch the spinning skills of the slickest international advertising agency. Russia is trying to overhaul the image of the nation's most hated official – the traffic policeman.

The newly appointed Interior Minister, Sergei Stepashin, has embarked on a mission to clean up the profoundly corrupt GAI, the State Automobile Inspectorate, whose portly, swift-fingered, cops have come to symbolise official venality in the eyes of many Russians.

He has launched a public relations campaign to eradicate the force's widespread reputation as little more than a club for licensed highway robbers, and to adorn it with a "human face".

Thus, later today the GAI's most senior officer, Vladimir Fedorov, will spend several hours answering questions and complaints telephoned in by the readers of the *Komsomolskaya Pravda* newspaper.

The GAI's paramilitary iron-grey uniforms are being replaced with new outfits whose cheerful colours – bright lemon in some cases – will shine out against the monotonic hues of the Russian winter or a summer downpour. And the number of women in the force is being increased.

Nor is that all. The organisation is also likely to have a new name. Tacitly acknowledging that, to Russian ears, "GAI" (pronounced Guy-ee) has about as many positive connotations as the word "Mafia", officials have come up with a solemn, mouth-cluttering acronym: GIBDD – State Inspectorate for the Safety of Road Traffic.

The task facing Mr Stepashin and his aides is formidable. The force founded under Stalin in 1936 as an offshoot of the NKVD security apparatus is universally loathed and for good reason. Though far from angelic behind a wheel, Russia's motorists are continuously harassed by GAI officers, who do not need any reason in order to flag them down. It is not uncommon for a driver in Moscow to be pulled over several times in one journey by officers, known as "*gaishniki*", who stand at most big junctions.

Bribery is not so much the exception as the rule. The average traffic policeman receives a mere $120 (£75) a month – and that's often paid late. Backhanders, as in many areas of Russian life, have become a form of income supplement.

Motorists often reinforce the practice; as they would rather pay bribes than go through the time-consuming process of recovering confiscated papers. So widespread is corruption that some drivers no longer bother acquiring licences or documents, preferring to slip a bundle of roubles to any officer who is lucky enough to catch them.

The police's notoriety has spawned both its own micro-industry, china figures of traffic cops waving their batons have appeared in the shops. Stories abound of the GAI's skulduggery – from the officer who was harried off the streets of Moscow by his colleagues because he tried to be honest, to the cop who pulled over a car, announced he was tired of inventing reasons for imposing fines, but demanded a pay-off anyway.

Nor is the general level of fear and loathing helped by the occasional appearance on the streets of conmen wearing police uniforms who flag down vehicles for imaginary offences and pocket the proceeds. Although official efforts to clean up the force have so far failed, the authorities have not ignored the problem. The force's spokesman said yesterday that last year prosecutions were brought against 4,000 GAI employees, of whom more than half work on the streets. Of these, 470 were later fired.

The statistics are only the tip of an iceberg. It is hardly surprising, then, that Russians are less than optimistic that the clean-up will work. "Only time will tell," said the newspaper *Kommersant* earlier this month, "But, for now, the idea of a GAI with a human face belongs to the realms of fantasy".

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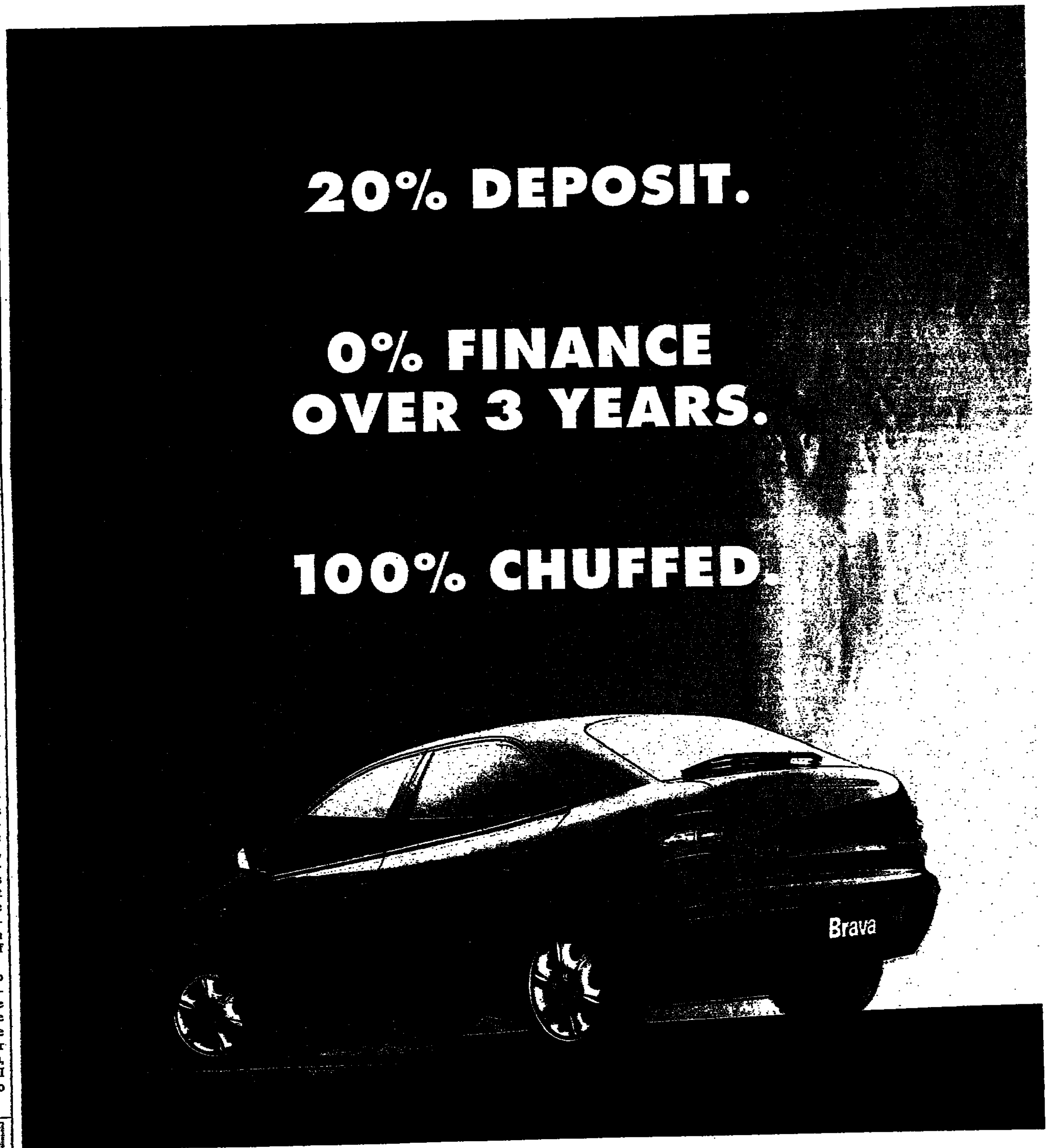

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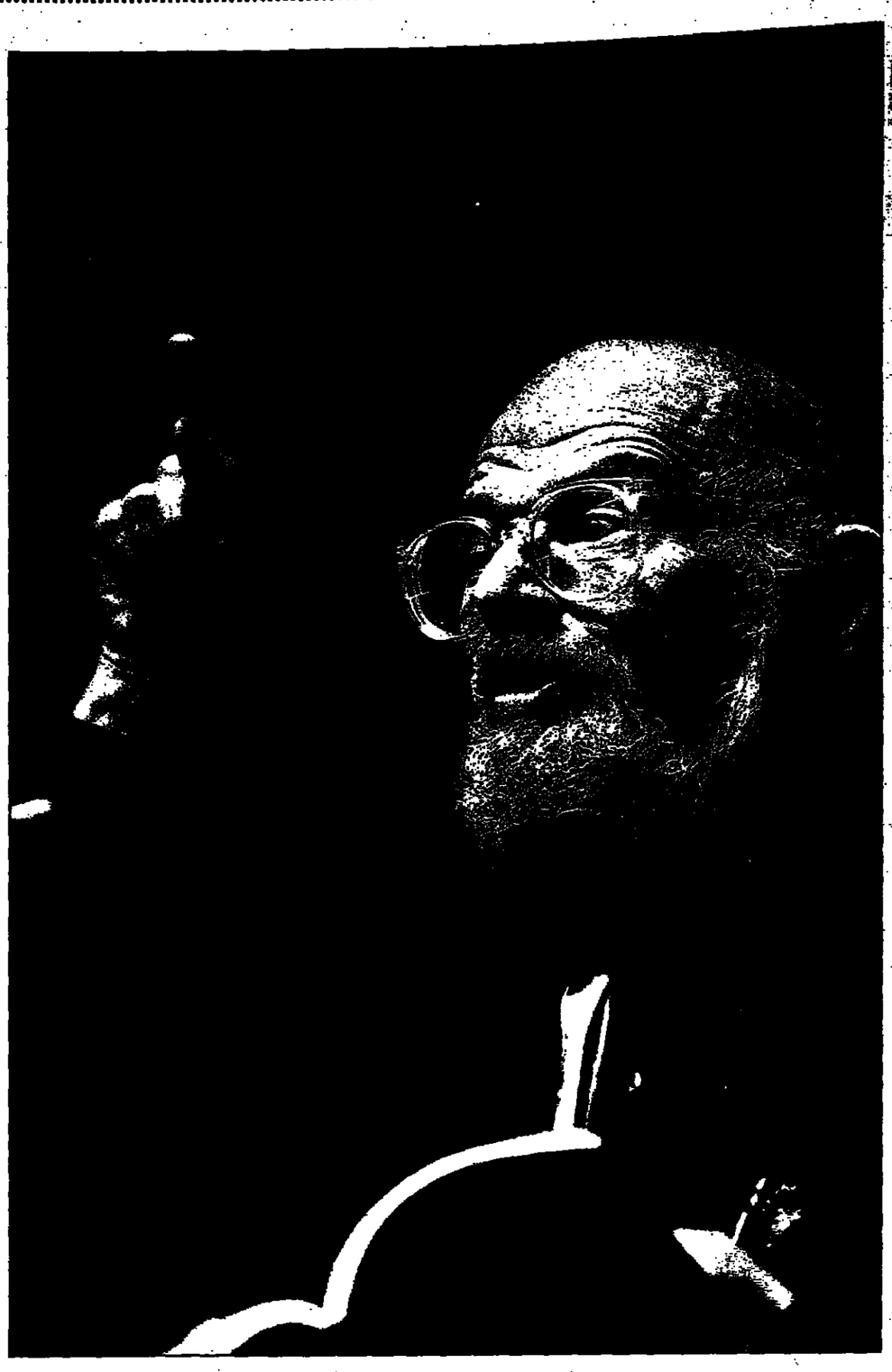
Tears and fury: the Ginsberg beat goes on

A year after his death, the life and work of one of the prime movers in the culture of dissent was celebrated by his friends. By **Michael Glover**



Allen Ginsberg in performance – priapic, carefree and playful Photograph: Philip Meech

I TRIED the South Door. "You can't get in from this side," said two men, closing it on me just a little. After all, I might be hustling them for the loose pence in their pockets. "Try the main entrance in Piccadilly. Just follow the church around."

So I slipped past the Rentokil Control Point and a couple of Hooch bottles, still standing, until I found myself in the main courtyard of St James's Church, Piccadilly, amongst a crowd of devotees queuing for tickets. It all seemed so incongruous.

What were we doing was celebrating the life of Allen Ginsberg, New York Bowery bum, poet of subversion, Jewish/Buddhist celebrant of the delights of the body, in a Wren church of such chilling opulence with its Corinthian capitals picked out in gold leaf and its florets of plaster cherubs staring down so curiously from the barrel-vaulted ceiling? Would Ginsberg himself have felt at home here? Could it be because this church, like Ginsberg so often, had been spectacularly bombed out on one occasion?

I walk up the immensely tall, echoing nave. Just a dribble of people so far, easily outnumbered by the gum-chewing camera crews. So pleased to be here. Just as pleased to be anywhere else by the looks on their faces. Three giant speakers are piled up together like higgledy-piggledy dice. There is a white guitar and a black one, and a huge Bechstein grand with its shark's fin yawning open. Beside the high altar, occupying its own small pew, is a giant photograph of the man himself, in hat, scarf, mac, and giant, square-framed spectacles. He looks old, sallow, shrunken – and curiously respectable, too. He's all tricked out for death's long, chilly winter – or perhaps for New York's. The altar cloth reads "Allelujah, Allelujah, Allelujah".

I last saw Ginsberg at close quarters in the winter of 1994 at the Guildhall, three years before he died. We were standing side by side at a urinal, "they do say all roads lead to the ocean," he remarked as two steaming arcs mingled, amicably and odoriferously enough, against the virginal-white wall. The time before that he'd been sitting beside me at a poetry reading in Cheltenham, listening to the publisher John Calder praise him to the skies.

Ginsberg was a small man with the boniest of knees, and I shall remember his subsequent performance to this day – the way his head wobbled so dangerously on his neck; the sight of that old harmonium of his, bouncing and jigging about on his knees like some testy, spoilt baby who requires endless distraction. And the truly terrible tunelessness of his singing as he repeated, yet again, that refrain from William Blake's *Nurse's Song*: "And all the hills echoèd." I adored the sheep noises emanating from that huge, fat-lipped mouth. But, my God, what a torture it was listening to him sing that same line over and over again. Would he go on until the stars fell out of the skies? He seemed so priapic, so carefree, so playful, though not at all well. And then, in May 1997, he died in New York, of cancer of the liver, and his friends around the world mourned the passing of a great spirit. And on Sunday night, one year and six weeks after his death, a pacific army of old Beats, which include Lawrence Ferlinghetti from San Francisco, first publisher of *Howl*, and now sailing intrepidly into his ninth decade; Michael Horowitz from Notting Hill Gate, and Anne Waldman, Ginsberg's "spiritual wife," a high-octane American performance poet who co-founded the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics at the Naropa Institute, Colorado – gathered in London to say their public farewells to a treasured friend and an enduring inspiration.

> Would Ginsberg himself have felt at home here? Could it be because this church, like Ginsberg so often, had been spectacularly bombed out once?

The evening itself kicked off not with the slow, thin, sanctimonious seepage of organ notes, but with a fuzzy, foot-stompin' trumpet blast from Jelly Roll Morton's Red Hot Peppers.

Then the compere, Michael Horowitz, who, just moments before, had been worrying about the fact that there was only one bottle of Evian water beside the mikes for all the artistes to swig from – "we'll all be drinking shit," he'd remarked, "how very Ginsbergian ..." – hopped up to explain why the event was being held here of all places. Because Allen had recently read in this church, and he loved its associations with his idol William Blake. "He and his brothers and sister were baptised here."

Then the liberated spirits streamed up, one after another. The scouser Adrian Mitchell, in black horn-rimmed, elegaic spectacles recalled Ginsberg's appearance at the Roundhouse in the mid-Sixties, circling the audience, chanting and clinking his handbells. At the third circling, derision turns to wonder and delight, Mitchell remembers mistily. Oh yes, this outrageous dreamer of wet dreams about Che Guevara in the luscious jungles of Bolivia, made trouble of the highest quality. "He was the prophet of the new bohemian revolution, our prophet, our poet." Mitchell helps himself back to his pew, stricken with emotion. Allen's photo winks at him from behind the giant votive candle, but Mitchell's back is turned away from him, humped in grief.

Then a surprised guest hurries across the chancel, dodging and weaving around the equipment, in the general direction of the Bechstein, a man of middling height with a head of wild, finger-raked hair and the droopy, lugubrious eyes of a bloodhound: Philip Glass.

About a decade ago, he and Ginsberg collaborated on a chamber opera called *Hydrogen Jukebox*. It included a poem called "Wichita", written by Ginsberg in the mid-Sixties as a protest against the Vietnam war. They used to perform it together.

"He would sit in the curve of the piano there, reading," says Glass, "and I would be inspired." Then he slap-bangs at the keyboard wildly, muddily, for six or seven minutes. The photograph hums along appreciatively. At the end, Glass lets his nose fall very very slowly until it is almost touching the keyboard. It remains there. Is it stuck? Is he dead? No. No.

But the most extraordinary tribute of all to the galvanising energies of this dead poet comes from his old friend and poetical co-conspirator, Anne Waldman, who recalls his hyperactive last days in New York, which included hours of non-stop telephone conversations with friends around the world. Goodbye. Goodbye. Goodbye...

Waldman's poems are a sequence of furious, grief-stricken, savagely delivered assaults upon the sheer impertinence of death for having snatched her soul-mate away from her. "It's been a great ride," she recalls him having said. But can that ever be enough for the survivor? She remembers those hours of sitting beside his noble corpse in the Buddhist Meditation Hall with the monks chanting.

"His face is extraordinarily handsome in repose. Does someone say he resembled Dostoevsky? Never again will he sit up late over a Chinese noodle bowl. Never again will his eyes water because of tear gas. Never again will he embarrass corrupt, dead presidents." Then comes the mantra, chanted wildly: "I breathed upon his body! Ohmm! Ohmm!"

When she walked away from the microphone, her astonishingly flimsy scarf streams behind her like a blaze of stars.

The emotional impact of Waldman's performance is so great that when that "national treasure" Lawrence Ferlinghetti slouches up to the microphone, loose-limbed, not in any hurry to be anywhere too soon, bald head on his shoulders like a long, stretched egg, the moment seems mildly anti-climactic.

And there is no matching fierceness in his manner, either, just one hand hooked into his belt, and the gruff-voiced, heartfelt reading, which sometimes falls to a near whisper, of a handful of poems that recall Ginsberg's needling humour when writing at his best: "America, I'm putting my queer shoulder to the wheel..."

Ginsberg seems a tender presence during these poems, close as a shadow. But death, the dark lover, caught up with him in the end. Not a single one ever escapes death's attentions.

Meanwhile, the photographers scuttle back and forth like undesirable rodents, and the Betacam cameras keep on rolling.

All he needs is laughter... and respect

Comedy has made Steve Coogan very rich, so why does he let a few critics annoy him? By **Anthony Clavane**

Steve Coogan is easily exasperated by 'arty-farty intellectuals'

IN ONE of the many memorable encounters from the spoof chat-show *Knowing Me, Knowing You*, a soul-baring new-wave comedian tells Alan Partridge: "I want to be funny – but with dignity". The king of sports-casual leisurewear replies: "Go on, do your Frank Spencer."

At the end of Steve Coogan's current show, he sends himself up, appearing as "Steve Coogan", a soul-baring new-wave comedian. And he says he wants "large groups of people to find me funny" while none the less craving critical respect: two Baftas this week, for Best Comedy Performance and Best Comedy Programme, suggest that he is *managing* both.

His love-hate relationship with what he calls "arty-farty intellectuals" emerges when he mentions that *I'm Alan Partridge* was voted best TV series of 1997 by BBC2's *Late Review*, "a show I really can't stand". As Alan might say, he's not just a "one-trick Partridge", yet most of us continue to identify him with the great man – a legend in his own roadside motel. This irks Coogan, despite the fact that the character is often spoken of in the same breath as revered Brit-com greats such as Basil Fawlty, Captain Mainwaring and Blackadder.

There is the inevitable Partridge segment in the show, but he also plays Tony Ferrino, Ernest Moss, Duncan Thickett and both Paul and Pauline Calf. He has been the voices of Neil Kinnock, Margaret Thatcher and Mick Jagger on *Spitting Image*, has appeared in straight roles on TV and the "legitimate" stage and won countless awards as a stand-up comedian.

Yet the urge to say "Go on, Steve, do your Alan Partridge," remains irresistible.

Alan first appeared as a hapless sports reporter on Radio 4's *On The Hour*, was promoted to the dizzy heights of Pringle-clad presenting on BBC2's *The Day Today*, became an overnight sensation as the Wogan wannabe in *Knowing Me, Knowing You*, but then tragically fell from grace as a divorced Radio Norwich jock in *I'm Alan Partridge*.

Coogan, his fans will be relieved to hear, still "does" Alan. Even if he wanted to, he could never kill him off. Loadsamoney, Stavros and Smashie might all have been swiftly disposed of by Harry Enfield, but Coogan's tragi-comic creation refuses to hang up his Argyll sweater, bilberry blazer and driving gloves.

> 'It would be churlish of me,' he sighs, 'to say my characters are nothing like me. I would never claim to be completely rational and well-adjusted'

He lapses into Partridge-isms without even thinking. He compares his former collaborator on *The Day Today*, Chris Morris, to a concept car, for example ("Sorry, that was what Alan would say"). And while springing to the defence of his Latin crooner Ferrino, he adopts Partridge's belligerent tones.

"Look, 80 per cent – no, in fact it was more than 80 per cent – of reviews said he was great. But the *Guardian* did a snotty review. I could get out all the cuttings and be pedantic and Alan-ish about it..."

"It would be churlish of me," he sighs, "to say my characters are nothing like me. I would never claim to be completely rational and well-adjusted. There are bits of me in all of them. Besides, Alan is not a monster or a fascist. He's a little-England right-winger who likes the *Daily Mail*."

And, as with Coogan himself, loathes the *Guardian*. "It's their unquenching thirst for deconstructing everything which I hate. They've extended pages of nothingness, talking things into a soup. I really can't stand "Pass Notes", with its glib attempts to be funny. And the guide section is the most annoying part. It must have been written by computer, net-surfing, sci-fi nerds who are into cartoons like the *Simpsons* and *King Of The Hill*. I just wish all this post-modernism would go away."

The "Ferrino flop" write-ups clearly got to Coogan. Up until the Lisbon Lothario's launch, he had known nothing but praise: *Spitting Image* and the London Palladium in his early twenties, an Edinburgh Perrier Award in 1992, *On The Hour* and *The Day Today* team and then universal acclaim for that chat-show host.

His insecurity is puzzling. In Britain, all successful performers will, at some point in their career, fall foul of the critics. If 80 per cent of reviewers thought Ferrino funny, does it really matter what a few "elitist snobs", as he calls them, think?

"Yeah, I suppose I said before I don't care, yet clearly I do. The thing is, you want everyone to think you're great all the time. But in Britain, if there is unbridled success – a slight mistake – people go for you. The tabloids had a pop. They didn't like me because I didn't talk to them." In fact, they deemed him a sex-addicted love-rat ("A millionaire who owns a host of flashy cars and has a stream of glamorous women battling to appear on his arm," as the *Sunday Mirror* put it).

His mandatory backlash period ended years ago, yet the gainsayers still rile him. "They talk a load of rubbish really," he says. "I felt relief rather than pleasure when the reviews for *I'm Alan Partridge* were so good. You can't stop these backlashes, it's all about *schadenfreude*. But I became insecure and paranoid. I thought they were really saying: 'Damn, it's actually good.' That's how I read them. With a tour like this there's no ambiguity. You can't deny the fact that 2,000 people were laughing throughout the night. There's nothing to match adulation from large groups of people."

His end-of-show appearance as "Steve Coogan" is, he explains, an ironic homage to Mike Yarwood's legendary and-this-is-me finale. He enjoys sending himself up as a prima donna. "You know the sort," he chuckles, "an obnoxious, precious performer." The type of comedian who wants to be funny, but with dignity.

Steve Coogan is on tour until 2 July. Telephone 0171-420 1000 for details.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

With God on their side

Glenn Hoddle is not alone in seeking divine intervention to further his ambitions. In football, golf and tennis, devotion is the name of the game. By **Simon O'Hagan**

GOD may have made the world in only seven days, but even He might find His work cut out over the next few weeks. For in the biggest summer of sport there has ever been, it seems that there won't be a shot saved, a putt holed or an ace served without the great referee in the sky having something to do with it.

Like the so-called utility player – the type who can play in any position depending on the team's needs – God is a versatile fellow who means different things to different people. In fact, the term God is perhaps not quite appropriate in analysing an upsurge of spirituality in sport that has found its most vivid, and some would say disconcerting expression in the England football coach, Glenn Hoddle.

The success of Arsène Wenger, the sophisticated Frenchman who has just led Arsenal to the Premiership and FA Cup double, is a measure of the increasing refinement of management techniques in football. Diet and mental training are now every bit as important as squat jumps and free-kick practice. But Hoddle's controversial espousal of faith-healing as a means to help England win the World Cup has taken sports psychology into an entirely new dimension.

We clearly should not underestimate the role of Eileen Drewery, the faith-healer brought in by Hoddle to talk to the England players. "It's a very personal thing, but one that works," Hoddle told BBC Radio 5 at the weekend. "She has contributed to our qualifying." Long since described as a born-again Christian but unwilling to refer to himself in such terms, Hoddle also revealed that he believed in reincarnation. "The body is just an overcoat," he said. "Take it away and your spirit goes into another life in the spirit dimension."

It's easy to dismiss this kind of thing as mere crankiness, with worrying if distant overtones of David Icke, the goalkeeper turned cult-leader who announced that he was the son of God. And certainly one fears for Hoddle should England fail at the World Cup and the press use his unorthodox training methods as a stick with which to beat him.

Suspicion of anything new-fangled follows from a conventional strain that is still very much present in sports culture. But with many football clubs now having their own chaplain, the culture is changing, and Hoddle is by no means alone in believing that sport raises questions that can't simply be answered by an extra half-hour's weight-training or a bonding session in the pub.

The sports psychologist John Syer sees religion in sport as an extension of the sort of work he does, mainly in building teamwork. "As a mental trainer, you are working on people's attitudes, and I suppose spirituality is also about attitude. Likewise the experience of being in a good team is spiritual, in that it's the feeling of being part of something that's bigger than you."

The organisation Christians in Sport has grown steadily since it was founded in 1980. It has a mailing list of 10,000, and reports a particular increase in interest among young footballers. It's a trend that director Stuart Weir in part puts down to the pressures of the modern footballer's life. "A 16-year-old might be sweeping out the souvenir shop one season, and the next he's starring in the first team," he said. "How do you cope with that?"

A number of high-profile converts has also helped the cause. Kriss Akabusi's brand of energetic Christianity helped him stand out in the athletics scene of the 1980s, and others followed. "Someone not as strong-willed as Kriss might be a bit reluctant to reveal that they were going to Bible study, but once his beliefs were known it became obvious that it wasn't just something for inadequates," Weir says.

Christians in Sport subsequently built a recruitment drive around a poster on which the slogan, "Who thinks Christianity is for wimps?" was accompanied by a photograph of the mighty rugby union player, and practising Christian, Va'aiga Tuigamala. The athlete Jonathan Edwards and footballer Gavin Peacock are also prominent in the organisation.

Weir is sceptical about faith-healing, while respecting that "if you believe something is helping you, then it very well might". Nor, says Weir, is asking God to intervene on your behalf what sportsmen's beliefs are about – for all the claims made by Tafarel, the Brazilian goalkeeper, that the Almighty has told him which way to dive so that he can save penalties.

"I'm very wary of people who tell you they are successful because God makes them win," Weir said. "The point about Christianity is that it should help you to discover self-value and to keep things in perspective."

Both of which provide handles on sanity in a frenzied, moneyed world of sporting celebrity that has left many a casualty in its wake. Bernhard Langer, the German golfer who is another leading light in Christians in Sport, famously missed a putt that would have won the Ryder Cup a few years ago, an experience that might have destroyed lesser men. He understood that his worth was not expressed in winning or losing golf tournaments. "There has only ever been one perfect human being, and we crucified him," he remarked later. "All I failed to do was put a golf ball in a hole."

Individual sports, with their unremitting emphasis on the self, are full of tales of spiritual quest. There is an abundance of how-to books for aspiring tennis players and golfers, all with their chapters on the inner being. Did not Arthur Ashe meditate his way to the Wimbledon title in 1975? No press conference given by the tennis player Michael Chang passes without reference to the role played in his life by Jesus Christ. And when Andre Agassi was asked how he reconciled reading the Bible with calling an umpire a "f****** bozo", he answered: "That's why I read the Bible."

A new self-help book, *The Golfer and Millionaire*, by an American called Mark Fisher, is really a parable in which a mediocre golf pro discovers a mentor who teaches him how to banish self-doubt in the form of a bejewelled, Devil-like character who lurks about the green trying to put him off his stroke. The player goes on to win the US Open.

Redemption, of course, is a recurring theme in sport. Although there has been nothing overtly religious about it, the process by which Tony Adams, the Arsenal footballer and one-time alcoholic, has come back from the brink to experience a glorious coda to his career and an evidently deeper meaning to life is surely worthy of the description "born-again".

And when one looks at the endlessly troubled career of Paul Gascoigne, few would dispute his need for pastoral care. In recognising that, Glenn Hoddle has taken a step further than any previous England coach, just as he has by enlisting the services of Ms Drewery. If England come back from France as World Cup winners, her appointments book will be very full indeed.

Glenn Hoddle has embraced the spiritual life. 'The body is just an overcoat,' he says

THE GOD SQUAD

Michael Chang, US tennis player (above). Praises God for all of his success. Critics say his belief turned him from an athlete with average gifts into a top-class player. Chang's tennis philosophy: "I go out and play and everything else is in God's hands."

Tom Lehman, US golfer and 1996 British Open winner. The born-again Christian from Minnesota prays daily and says he drew strength from God as he faced money troubles, a confidence crisis and a cancer scare. Thanked God in his Open victory speech.

Jonah Lomu, New Zealand rugby union player (below). The 16-stone giant they call "The Whale" is a devout Christian who doesn't drink or smoke and is described as shy and "God-loving" by team-mates.

Tessa Sanderson, Olympic champion javelin-thrower (above). The veteran of six Games inherited her faith from her devout mother. Tessa, whose athletics career was dogged by injury, said before her final Olympics in Atlanta in 1996: "Many a time I've prayed to God for things to come right. For me it has happened that way. But I have never lost my faith."

Gavin Peacock, captain of Queen's Park Rangers. Nicknamed "The Rev" in the dressing room. Co-wrote a book called *Never Walk Alone*, with former Middlesbrough winger Alan Comfort, who is now a vicar in Essex.

Jonathan Edwards, World Champion triple-jumper (below). A life-long Christian and son of a vicar who is studying for a theology degree. — *Mark Oliver*

More McDonald's than Mitsubishi

Students at Japanese schools in Britain can find themselves painfully torn between two cultures. By **Lesley Downer**

ALL is not well in the hothouse world of Japanese schools in England. A couple of days ago at Gyosei International School, near Milton Keynes, 26 youngsters decided to rebel against the school's tough disciplinary regime. They had had enough, it seems, of being woken at 6.30am and expected to study until 10.30pm, of being forbidden to visit McDonald's and discouraged from supporting the local football team.

The teenagers, all boarders, barricaded themselves in their dormitory and chanted slogans criticising their teachers, according to one report. Another has been suspended and sent back to Japan after being involved in a row with a teacher over school rules which he said were "petty and stupid".

It is not easy growing up as a Japanese child in England. In fact it is not easy growing up as a Japanese child at all. Japanese mothers, determined that their children should be high achievers, drive them to study quite literally from morning to night. Five-year-olds lug satchels laden with homework. Teenagers go to crammers in the evening to up their grades so that they can go to a better university and there are regular reports of suicide among schoolchildren.

Education in Japan is like an escalator. The right university leads automatically to the right company. Even though the lifetime employment system is beginning to break down, high-fliers still want to enter the big corporations such as Sony, Hitachi and Mitsubishi, who recruit exclusively from Tokyo University, the Japanese equivalent of Oxbridge.

Put the Japanese school in the middle of an English town or village and the pressure becomes still greater. There are five Japanese schools here, in Acton, Horsham, Bury St Edmunds and Wrexham, as well as Gyosei in Milton Keynes.

Shitennoji School, near Bury St Edmunds, is like a little Japan in the middle of the English countryside. Most of the staff speak little or no English, classes are conducted in Japanese and the curriculum is the same one that prepares students for Japan's tough university entrance examinations back home. Yet whenever the students venture outside the school gates, they find themselves in a small English village. They need only watch English television to be aware of the more relaxed life beyond.

Japanese society is inexorably changing but it is still a nation of conformists. To quote the old Japanese saying, "a nail that sticks up must be hammered in". Anyone that has lived abroad is *de facto* a nail that sticks up.

So Japanese living and working in England send their children to Japanese schools so that they will not be at a disadvantage when they go home. There are also children who have been sent to England by wealthy parents in the hope that they will learn English – but in the disciplined environment of a Japanese school. Quite how they are expected to learn English when most communication is in Japanese is another matter.

Fiona English, head of the English language unit at the School of Oriental and African Studies at London University, deals with Japanese students of university age who have come to Britain for the first time. "They have particular problems," she says, "both in terms of the educational culture and in terms of being cut loose." Occasionally students are so seduced by the social scene in London that they go AWOL. One girl student "found herself able to do far more than she could have done within the rigour of family and social constraints there would have been in her own culture. In the end she dropped out. She had found the whole experience all too much."

Another problem is the wide gulf between the Japanese educational system and ours. "Japanese education up to first degree level at university is very much a matter of learning by memorising and being tested on what they can remember," Fiona English says.

One Japanese student could not understand why she kept getting low marks when she conscientiously wrote down everything she had learnt. "She was amazed when I told her about my eight-year-old son. When he was studying the Romans, he was shown pictures and asked to speculate about what was going on. In Japan they'd be told what was going on."

In Japan this year there have been riots in schools by rebellious children desperate to break out of the straitjacket forced upon them. There have also been recent cases of children murdering their parents or their fellow students.

Perhaps the rebellion at Gyosei is partly a reflection of the changes happening at home. In any case, when – if – the young rebels of Gyosei go back, no doubt they will take with them a new-found sense of freedom.

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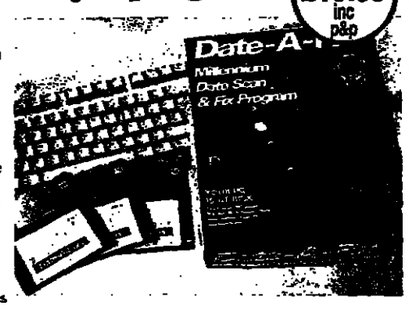

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WHAT'S HOT

Denim pedal-pushers

SCOUTING around Oxford Street on Saturday, anyone would have thought there was about to be a severe denim pedal-pusher drought. Suddenly, everyone including the mother, brother and dog was wearing them.

I'm quite sure that when I made my own three years ago I didn't think I had my finger three years ahead of the pulse. I simply had a few scraps of fabric lying around; not quite enough for a pair of full-length trousers. And now my cropped denims are the height of fashion. I know exactly how those Hollywood starlets feel when they turn up to the plushest of award ceremonies to find that a less famous person turned up in exactly the same ensemble. Everywhere I looked as I walked down the sunny side of the street, I thought I was seeing my own reflection.

I couldn't possibly begin to list the high-street stores that have recreated their own version of the Fifties rockabilly denim pedal-pusher. The Etam version, at £45, is too expensive, too long and the v-cut detailing on the waistband too fussy. The Morgan ones, also £45, have a band of lighter coloured denim sewn to the bottom to create the effect of a fashionable bucket-sized turn-up. French Connection's sport a similar fake turn up. Theirs are £50.

The pick of the bunch for savvy shoppers is from Easy, qualified jeans designers. They are stretch denim, they are cheap – £29.99 – and they are everywhere. Wear with cute little cardigans and kitten heels, or strappy vest and flattie sandles. A ponytail and chewing gum is optional. Wear on a beach or on the street. But most importantly, don't wear with tights, socks or any other hosiery. And if you don't want to follow the flock, don't wear them at all.

— *Holly Wood*

STORY: TAMSIN BLANCHARD • PHOTOGRAPHER [illegible] • PHOTOGRAPHER'S ASSISTANT: MARK MOON •
HAIR AND MAKE-UP: ALEX BABSKY [illegible]

Real designer [illegible] real prices

IT'S hot news at Debenhams. It's making Terry Green, the store's chief executive, a little hot under the collar. Stephanie Chen, the buying and merchandise director is thrilled. And the customer? Well he – and this time it is one for the boys – should be chomping at the bit. Ozwald Boateng, the larger than life Savile Row tailor to the stars, is joining the stable – the latest designer to add his signature to Debenhams' list of labels available only to those in the know. His collection, designed exclusively for Debenhams, is in the pipeline, alongside a men's range by John Richmond and a jewellery collection by Van Peterson.

When Debenhams commissioned Philip Treacy to design a range of hats for the woman who wanted the milliner's style, but not the SW1 price-tag, it knew it was on to a winner. The hat collection is now into its fifth year and, along with Pearce II Fionda, BDL by Ben De Lisi, J by Jasper Conran, G by Maria G[illegible] by Nicky Cross[illegible] Pip Hackett and [illegible] earning Debenhams [illegible] per year. Next year [illegible] vision is expected [illegible] £15m. In [illegible] Green intends [illegible] make money.

"My aim is [illegible] [illegible]

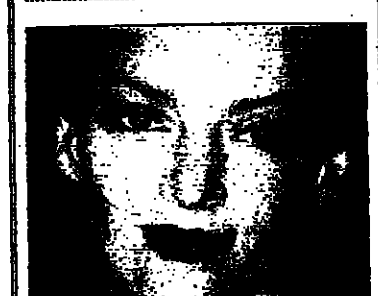
[illegible]

in 75 stores. This summer, they have introduced a cruise and swimwear line, including glamorous all-in-one swimsuits and curvy bikinis in classic black and white. The first Pearce Fionda shoes will be on sale, available exclusively – and affordably – at Debenhams from September.

"We pretty much lead the whole thing," says Ren Pearce of Pearce Fionda. Debenhams keep in touch with the designers weekly and every single item that reaches the shop floor is signed off. "Our name is on it and we want to feel proud of it," says Ren. "The reason people come back and buy from the collection is we don't skimp on anything."

The same will apply to Mr Boateng when his collection launches. But don't get too excited. You'll have to wait until next spring. In the meantime, if you haven't already been designer shopping at Debenhams, it's well worth taking a look.

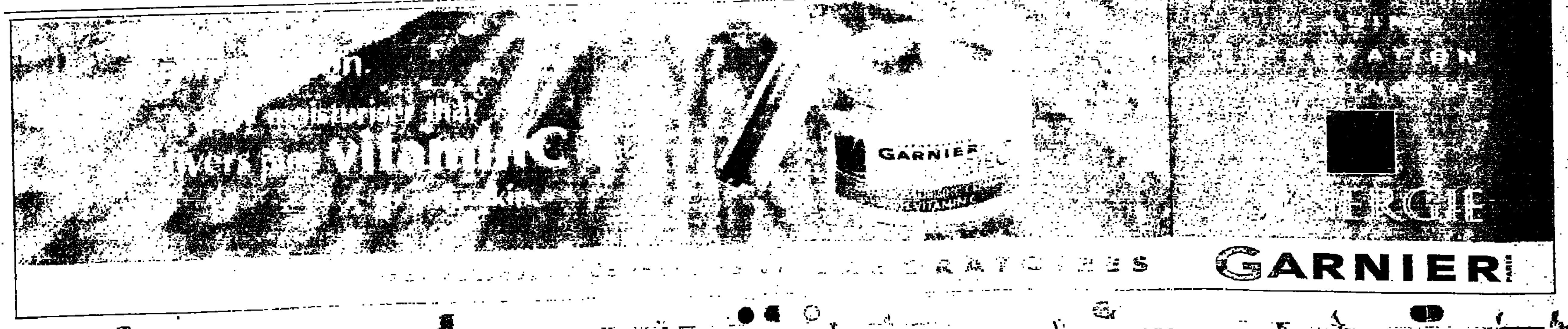
OUT OF THE BATHROOM CLOSET



UMA THURMAN keeps her complexion flawless with Janet Fildermans Lime Blossom Cleansing Milk, £11.25. (Mail order 0171 262 7034)

What's so special about it? According to Janet Filderman, whose products are available around the world by mail order, the milk is very simple but very effective – softening and cleansing at the same time. It is gentle – not an irritant – soothing and calming. The main ingredients are vegetable oils and cleansing agents. The lime blossom is merely an extract, but what's good enough for Uma is good enough for most women.

— *Susannah Cohen*



Major

Sosuke

Dennis S

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

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Major Sir Patrick Wall

MAJOR SIR PATRICK WALL was a politician of unbreakable independence of mind, taken by some to be stubborn and blinkered, and by his party's whips to be simply infuriating.

When I joined the Conservative Research Department in 1969, I was given responsibility for acting as secretary to the party's backbench Home Office Affairs Committee. The department's director, Brendon Sewill, told me, in the course of his briefing: "It is a British tradition, sanctioned by our history, to make young men responsible for subjects they know nothing about. You will have to learn about immigration and Commonwealth policy, and you will have, from time to time, to deal with Enoch Powell, Ronnie Bell, and Major Patrick Wall. And they are a formidable trio."

Powell and Bell I already knew, albeit slightly. Wall I knew from his ferociously right-wing reputation. He was an ardent anti-Communist, a proponent of mining the approaches to the Baltic Sea in order to restrict the movements of the Soviet Navy, a pillar of the apartheid-based government of South Africa, an enthusiast for the cause of the Portuguese empire in Africa, and a friend of Chiang Kai-shek, the ruler of what he called the "Republic of China" and what most people called Taiwan. He was also, Sewill warned me, no cardboard man of the right, but a fiercely intelligent and learned man, and only too willing to confound the arguments of any tyro such as myself.

It was not, therefore, without trepidation that I accepted an invitation to lunch with Wall. I found a most genial and humorous host, most firm in his opinions, not at all evidently docrinaire, and certainly having about him nothing of the wild-eyed ideologue I had feared.

Wall held staunchly to many beliefs throughout his life, but he was above all staunch in his religious beliefs. Educated in Switzerland and at the famous Roman Catholic public school Downside, he rose in later life to become chairman of Pro Fide, the well-known international Catholic organisation. The son of a well-to-do engineer, he had demonstrated an early bent for matters technical: he was only seven when he built his first model ship, and he had a collection of thousands by the time of his death. It was no great surprise to his family when he enlisted in the Royal Marines in 1935.

It was Wall's settled early decision to make his career in the armed services. It was not until after the Labour Party's triumph at the general election of 1945 that he evinced any serious interest in politics, and not until 1950 that he left the Marines to seek a Conservative parliamentary nomination. He fought Cleveland twice, in 1951 and 1953, before winning Haltemprice (later Beverley) in 1954: this constituency he served until his retirement in 1987.

It is important to remember Wall's distinguished record as a fighting man. He served in several ships including the (for him) appropriately named *Iron Duke*, *Valiant*, and *Vanguard*. He won the Military Cross in 1945 and the same year was made a Member of the American Legion of Merit in recognition of his vital role with American supply ships at Omaha beach during the Normandy landings.

Nor was he simply a gallant warrior: in the Marines he learned to fly, became an expert in the theory of long-range gunnery, and rose to become second-in-command of 48 RM Commando. The Conservative parliamentary party thus gained, in 1954, an astute, educated and experienced MP who was over the years to lend lustre to many debates on defence and foreign policy.

Early on, however, Wall learned that he was unlikely ever to gain serious political office: he was too opinionated for that and, in the two brief periods in which he held the most junior of jobs – as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture (1955-57) and the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1958-59) – he found the diplomatic practice of discretion imposed on him irksome. He was, after all, a man who relished political combat. In one of his books, *Student Power* (1968), he regaled one set of readers while aggravating another with the acerbic nature of his commentary.

Meanwhile, he busied himself with a whole host of activities. He maintained contact with his old service through the RMFVR (Royal Marine Forces Volunteer Reserve), was secretary to or chairman of a bewildering variety of international committees all of which expressed aspects of his interests in European defence, Anglo-American relations, and Africa. All the while he wrote voluminously and elegantly, inspiring his supporters and (greatly to his pleasure), angering all who opposed him. Publications included the *Royal Marine Pocket Book* (1944), *Defence Policy* (1969), *The Indian Ocean and the Threat to the West* (1975) and *Southern Oceans and the Security of the Free World* (1977). When he was knighted in 1981, he felt that his political career was coming to an end, and in 1987 he retired from the House of Commons.

Patrick Wall was a man of the right, but never of the unthinking right – indeed in 1970 he resigned from the Monday Club on the grounds that its members were incapable of the serious thought their policies required. For myself, I never read anything by him, nor had any conversation with him, from which I did not learn a great deal. There are, I know, many on all sides of the political divide who would attest to the same.

Patrick Cosgrave

Wall with students at Leeds University, 1968, the year his book *Student Power* was published

In British politics, people are all too often assigned to boxes with labels, **writes Tam Dalyell.** Extreme right-winger. Ferocious anti-Communist. Generally anti-immigration. Fervently for capital punishment. Stalwart of the Monday Club.

None of these assignations was exactly inaccurate about Patrick Wall. But somehow they do not cumulatively present an accurate picture of a parliamentary colleague I knew well for 25 years and who, from the opposite end of the spectrum, participated with me in every defence debate and services estimate debate from 1962 to 1987. His contributions, always lengthy, were not resented on that account, because they were serious and full of informed constructive content.

Brickbats across the floor can sometimes boomerang. Shortly after the election of the Labour government in 1964, one of my new colleagues, a left-winger, chided the previous speaker as being "the honourable member for Haltemprice and the Royal Marines". My colleague thought that he had wounded Patrick Wall. Afterwards, I hadn't the heart to explain to Wall, chuffed at what he took to be an extreme compliment, that it had not been so intended. Indeed, championing the Royal Marines was the top priority of Wall's parliamentary existence.

Time and again he returned to the problems of recruiting in the Marines. He saw it as a vicious circle which worked as follows. The teeth to tail figures of the Royal Marines were better than those of the Navy as a whole. This meant that a greater proportion of the men were employed on operational tasks and fewer at home in barracks, training establishments and other administrative tasks. This was largely due to the fact that the Marines had adopted the functional system, as opposed to the old home port system of the Royal Navy.

It was very satisfactory to have more men in the operational teeth than in the administrative tail but that led to increased disturbance and no assurance that when a man had finished his foreign service and come home he would be stationed near his home port, where probably his wife had established a home. So we had the vicious circle: more on operational tasks, more disturbance, less home service and inevitably fewer recruits.

The Marines were the Navy's handymen who, at short notice, could be turned into soldiers, sailors or parachute troops. But for Wall it had to be borne in mind that if so small a corps accept too many commitments it meant more foreign service, more disturbance and strain all round, which in turn would reflect on recruiting figures. Wall believed that the contented man was his service's best recruiter, and therefore detained the Commons at length as to how the lot of the marine could be improved.

His great friend Sir Patrick Duffy, the former Labour MP for Sheffield Attercliffe, like Wall a brave war hero, described to me their joint visit to the Marines in the Arctic during training: "I take my hat off to any man over the age of 60 who could go through the Arctic rigours in a way that Patrick Wall would subject himself, to be with his beloved Marines."

Patrick Henry Bligh Wall, politician and Marine officer: born 19 October 1916; commissioned in the Royal Marines 1935, Acting Major 1943, Major 1949; MC 1945; MP (Conservative) for Haltemprice Division of Hull 1954-55, for Haltemprice Division of East Yorkshire 1955-83, for Beverley 1983-87; Chairman, Monday Club 1978-80; Kt 1981; married 1953 Sheila Putnam (died 1983; one daughter); died Chichester, West Sussex 15 May 1998.

Sosuke Uno

THE politician and former Prime Minister of Japan Sosuke Uno was one of a long line of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) politicians who acted as conservative overseers of Japan's post-war economic renaissance. In power continuously from 1955, and until their demise in 1993, the leading politicians of the conservative LDP were akin to emperors in ancient Rome and in many ways enjoyed a similar perception of their own rather curious standards of ethical integrity and financial propriety.

In a country where political scandal is commonplace, Uno was no stranger to controversy. However, unlike many of his colleagues who were implicated and convicted in bribery and corruption scandals, Uno set a precedent for being the first Prime Minister and indeed Japanese politician to be forced out of office for a sex scandal.

Uno became Prime Minister in June 1989, following the demise of the corrupt Takeshita administration. This had fallen in the wake of the Recruit company scandal whereby politicians received Recruit shares in exchange for political favours.

He had managed to avoid being implicated in this scandal, which may say something about his political ability, given that Recruit executives only indulged those they thought influential. However, as a safe pair of hands, he was nominated and selected as Prime Minister at the age of 66, and immediately declared Recruit "deplorable".

Despite the promise of a "clean start" for Japanese politics, 69 days later and in the fourth shortest administration in Japanese politics, Uno was forced to resign following allegations of a five-month affair with a sometime prostitute, and further allegations of sexual misconduct with geisha girls.

Unlike the British newspaper-reading public, the Japanese have always been forgiving when it comes to dealing with their leaders' sexual (and even financial) irregularities. Indeed the concept of *uwaki mono* or "frivolous womaniser" is well ingrained and accepted in the culture. However, what was unforgivable in the eyes of the Japanese was that Uno, despite being one of Japan's richest politicians (as Foreign Secretary he was the second richest member of the Takeshita Cabinet), was publicly ridiculed on national television by his former lover for being tight-fisted.

In giving the geisha girl a miserly 3 million yen (about £13,000) for her services and abruptly leaving her without so much as a parting gift, Uno's *uwaki* behaviour, though forgivable, began to be seen by the wider public as *ketchi* or "stingy", which was not forgivable.

The ire of women voters and, it should also be said, the national anger over the introduction of a 3 per cent consumption tax, along with the first ever Upper House defeat for the LDP in the preceding month's elections and attempts to open up Japan's agricultural market to foreign competition, all conspired against Uno and he was replaced on 10 August by the fresh-faced Toshiki Kaifu.

Despite the brevity of Uno's premiership, he had enjoyed a somewhat distinguished political career. Elected to the House of Representatives for the first time in 1960, aged 38, he became a Vice-Minister at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry six years later. Once established as uncontroversial and a loyal hand to his superiors, the conveyer-belt aspect of Japanese politics came into play and Uno also served as a junior minister in the Science and Technology Agency and the Administrative Agency, as well as holding Cabinet positions as Minister for Trade and Industry and then Foreign Secretary between 1987 and 1989.

Uno's tenure as Japan's prime minister was too brief for him to have made any significant impact on the country's direction in the late 1980s. However, he was regarded as a successful Foreign Secretary at a time when Japan was being called upon by the international community to make a more sizeable contribution to international relations in proportion to her economic might.

Uno did not contest the last 1996 general election: he enjoyed a quiet retirement and followed his pursuits of painting, music and writing poetry. During his lifetime he had published two volumes of *haiku* poetry and also a well-regarded book recounting his experiences as a prisoner of war in Siberia.

Paul Carter

Sosuke Uno, politician: born Shiga, Japan 27 August 1922; Prime Minister of Japan 1989 married (two daughters); died Shiga 19 May 1998.

Dennis Scuse

DENNIS SCUSE was for nine years the General Manager of BBC Enterprises, the successful selling arm of BBC programmes, and was in line to be promoted to become the chief executive of Visnews.

In 1972 Visnews was the leading international television news agency. Reuters held the chairmanship. The other main owner, the BBC, provided the bulk of the staff. A new chief executive was needed and the general assumption was that Dennis Scuse should be appointed. He had an excellent record for the job.

Suddenly there was a hitch. The retiring Director-General of the BBC, Sir Charles Curran, discovered that he would no longer be eligible to hold an important post in the European Broadcasting Union to which he had recently been elected if he had ceased to be an active broadcaster. He therefore applied for the vacant Visnews post.

The Visnews Board had no alternative. It would have been impossible to appoint anyone against the Director-General. Scuse withdrew and gradually moved into private consultancy. It spelled the end of his hitherto successful BBC career.

Scuse had joined the Army Broadcasting Service in the Second World War and had commanded stations in Bari, Rome and Athens. He was demobilised in 1946 and joined the Overseas Division of the BBC. He was seconded to the War Office for work in broadcasting for the forces. He served in Benghazi and in the British Forces network in Germany, where he introduced *Two-Way Family Favourites*, the programme that in turn introduced Jean Metcalfe to Scuse's number two in Hamburg, Cliff Michelmore.

He had been the chief television assistant in the BBC's New York office. He had also been the senior planning assistant under Joanna Spicer. He devised a system popular with television producers which enabled them to acquire extra programme money through "viewer participation".

This meant that the producer sold the right to rebroadcast the programme being made, in return for an advance of money for his or her programme budget. Thus the television service in general would not gain from a programme sale, but the individual programmes could be made self-supporting. Indeed it became almost impossible for programme offers to be accepted unless some "viewer participation" were promised.

Scuse went on to become the general manager of BBC television and radio enterprises for nine highly successful years. He was looking forward to the Visnews promotion which he had every right to expect until Sir Charles Curran's surprise action thwarted his prospects, and effectively ended his BBC career.

Leonard Miall

Dennis George Scuse, broadcasting executive: born 19 May 1921; Assistant Director, British Forces Network, Germany 1949-50, Director 1950-57; MBE 1957; Senior Planning Assistant, BBC TV 1958-59, Chief Assistant (Light Entertainment) 1960, Chief Assistant (TV), BBC New York Office 1960, General Manager, BBC TV Enterprises 1963-72, General Manager, BBC Radio Enterprises 1968-72; managing director, Trident International TV Enterprises 1972-76; managing director, Dennis Scuse Ltd 1976-87; married 1948 Joyce Burt (one son); died Richmond, Surrey 30 April 1998.

Scuse: 'viewer participation'

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

GREGORY: On 16 May, to Lisa (nee Connell) and Adrian, twins, Abbie Anne and Jasmine Jade, sisters to Holly May.

Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010. Charges are £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen visits Prudhoe Community High School, Prudhoe, Northumberland; visits the East Centre and the Open Door Learning Centre, Prudhoe, and opens a new computer link to local schools, and visits Vindolanda Roman Fort, Bardon Mill, Hexham, Northumberland. The Duke of Edinburgh, Captain-General, visits the Commando Logistic Regiment, Royal Marines, Chivenor, Devon. The Prince Edward, Honorary Chairman, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Young Canadians Challenge Charter for Business, holds a dinner at St James's Palace. The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, attends their Annual General Meeting and luncheon at the Landmark London, London NW1; as President, Women's Royal Naval Service Benevolent Trust, attends the Annual General Meeting at the Victory Services Club, Carnaby Street, London W2; as Patron, the Development Trust (for the Mentally Handicapped), visits Intercapital Brokers Limited, London EC2; and, as Patron, British School of Osteopathy, holds a reception at Buckingham Palace. The Duke of Gloucester, Trustee, the British Museum, attends a Tea Ceremony at the Museum, London WC1.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11.30am; 1st Battalion Welsh Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am. Band provided by the Irish Guards.

Birthdays

Mr Tim Albery, opera director, 46; General Sir Hugh Beach, 75; Sir David Berriman, former chairman, North East Thames Regional Health Authority, 70; Mr Graham Brady MP, 31; Sir Robert Bunyard, former HM Inspector of Constabulary, 68; Dr Sir Clifford Butler, former Vice-Chancellor, Loughborough University of Technology, 76; Professor Henry Cadbury-Brown, architect, 85; Professor Ian Cameron, Provost, University of Wales College of Medicine, 62; The Rev Professor Sir Owen Chadwick, former Master, Selwyn College, Cambridge, 82; Cher, singer and actress, 52; Mr Peter Copley, actor, 83; Flt-Lt John Cruickshank VC, banker, 78; Mr Gregory Dyke, chairman and chief executive, Pearson Television, 51; Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir John Harrison, 77; Lord Hollick, chief executive, United News and Media plc, 53; Mr Simon Keswick, former chairman, Trafalgar House, 55; The Very Rev Professor John McIntyre, theologian, 82; Mr Deryck Murray, former West Indies cricketer, 55; Mr Jeremy Nichols, Headmaster, Stowe School, 55; Lord Shore of Stepney, former MP, 74; Sir William Simpson, former trade union leader, 78; Sir Iain Vallance, chairman, British Telecom, 55; Mr Michael Wills MP, 46; Thomas Woodcock, Norroy and Ulster King of Arms, 47; Captain David Younger, Lord-Lieutenant of Tweeddale, 59.

Anniversaries

Births: Sir Henry Percy (Harry Hotspur), soldier and politician, 1364; Honoré de Balzac (Balssa), novelist, 1799; James Maitland Stewart, actor, 1908; Moshe Dayan, Israeli military commander, 1915. Deaths: Christopher Columbus, explorer and navigator, 1506; John Clare, farmer and poet, 1864; William Chambers, author and publisher, 1883; Sir Max (Henry Maximilian) Beerbohm, caricaturist and writer, 1956; Dame Jocelyn Barbara Hepworth, sculptor, 1975. On this day: Vasco da Gama, navigator, arrived at Calicut, India, 1498; the foundation stone of the Royal Albert Hall was laid, 1867; Amelia Earhart was the first woman to make a solo crossing of the Atlantic, 1932; the first US hydrogen bomb was dropped, over Bikini atoll, 1956. Today is the Feast Day of St Austregisilus or Outrill, St Basilla or Basilissa, St Bandelius, St Bernardino of Siena, St Ethelbert and Saints Thalelaeus, Asterius, Alexander and Others.

Lectures

British Museum: Sam Moorhead, "Roman Britain in the British Museum", 11.30am

Wallace Collection, London W1: Christyfle Phillips, "French 18th-century Chests of Drawers", 1pm.

Dr James Jefferiss

A memorial service for the late Dr James Jefferiss, former Consultant Venereologist, St Mary's Hospital, will be held in the Hospital Chapel, London W2, Thursday 21 May 1998, at 3pm. All friends and former colleagues are welcome.

LAW REPORT: 20 MAY 1998

Claimant estopped from pursuing race complaint

London Borough of Brent v Divine-Bortey; Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Potter) 14 May 1998

THE WIDE form of issue estoppel, which precluded the bringing of fresh proceedings in respect of a matter which could and should have been litigated in earlier proceedings, applied in proceedings before an industrial tribunal.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of the London Borough of Brent against a decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal that the respondent might proceed with a claim of racial discrimination.

The respondent, who had been employed by the council as an administrative assistant, was dismissed on the ground of redundancy. He was interviewed for a replacement post, but was not selected. He complained of unfair dismissal. In the course of the hearing of that complaint by the industrial tribunal, it emerged that he had not been selected because he had "an African accent". The tribunal dismissed his complaint of unfair dismissal, finding that the selection process had been fairly and properly carried out.

The respondent then made a fresh complaint, of racial discrimination under the Race Relations Act 1976, claiming that at the first tribunal hearing, his employer had admitted that one of the reasons for his dismissal was that he had an African accent.

The industrial tribunal dismissed the second complaint on jurisdictional grounds, holding the matter to be *res judicata*. The respondent's appeal to the Employment Appeal Tribunal was allowed.

Simon Devonshire (Solicitor to London Borough of Brent) for the council; Robin Allen QC (Solicitor to UNISON) for the respondent.

Lord Justice Simon Brown said that the plea of *res judicata* encompassed three types of estoppel: cause of action estoppel, issue estoppel in the strict sense, and issue estoppel in the wider sense, which ordinarily precluded a person from bringing fresh proceedings in respect of a matter which could and should have been litigated in earlier proceedings.

The wider form of issue estoppel had its origins in *Henderson v Henderson* (1843) 3 Hare 100. There was no doubt that issue estoppel applied in industrial tribunal cases, but the present appeal raised the question of how an industrial tribunal should approach the wider form of issue estoppel, or the rule in *Henderson v Henderson*, and whether special circumstances existed for not applying the rule.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal had concluded that the second tribunal had not had regard to the special circumstances which could make it unjust to apply the *Henderson v Henderson* rule. It had found, as one of those special circumstances, that an industrial tribunal should be readier than an ordinary court of law not to apply the rule in *Henderson v Henderson*, given in particular that the parties before such a tribunal were encouraged not to be legally represented.

That approach posed considerable difficulties. In the first place, it must be recognised that the rule applied in full measure in ordinary courts irrespective of whether the person being estopped had or had not been represented in the earlier proceedings. Secondly, the Employment Appeal Tribunal's own jurisprudence clearly established that a point not taken by a party in the industrial tribunal could not be taken on appeal even though the failure to take it originally was due to the lack of skill or experience of the party's advocate, and even though the omission could have been rectified by the industrial tribunal taking the point itself.

The self-same considerations which underlay the Employment Appeal Tribunal's approach to fresh points on appeal applied with no less force to the question whether or not to operate the *Henderson v Henderson* rule. The Employment Appeal Tribunal had, therefore, erred in their approach.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

THE INDEPENDENT

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Straw calls the police to order

REFORMERS or reactionaries, Home Secretaries have to deal with two of the most powerful trade unions in the country. Margaret Thatcher took on teachers and the TUC, but even she quailed before the Prison Officers' Association. As for the Police Federation, she needed the constables' loyalty in the miners' strike and stuffed their mouths with the generous Edmund-Davies pay formula. So New Labour inherits two inadequately managed services. Police efficiency is suspect; too many corrupt officers leave the force undisciplined. Their pension arrangements, along with those for fire officers, are an actuary's nightmare. They are not alone in resisting change. As recent events at Wormwood Scrubs showed, prison officers are still allowed to substitute group solidarity for effective and fair delivery of penal custody.

But Jack Straw is crafty. One of us, say the Tories, albeit in private, he is Michael Howard's legatee: look, he is keeping the prison building programme going. But they miss the distance between his populist rhetoric – for example in the Mary Bell case – and his attempt to do some liberal good by stealth, for example in youth justice. As for police and prison officers, Mr Straw has set two slow fuses burning. The police have to agree to a major reform of the disciplinary code: prison officers have to give up strikes and disruptive action, and in return they become partners in the running of penal institutions.

It is a start. But Mr Straw must know that if the police and prison officers are as powerful and potentially obstructive at the end of this parliament as they were at the conclusion of the last, he will have failed to make a much-needed contribution to the project of modernising Britain by which Tony Blair has set such store. No one is denying the difficulty of the custodial services nor how much we, the public, take for granted those who police society's marginal members. But that does not emancipate them from effective management, nor the need to show they offer value for money – nor the type of contracts now common elsewhere in the public sector.

It is not a question of breaking the unions, let alone preventing staff belonging to a legitimate representative body. It is about greater flexibility and the right of police and prison managers to manage and, as necessary, to subject service providers to fair external scrutiny and competition. Successive studies by the Audit Commission, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and the Prisons Service attest to the need for change, inside police stations, in the mess halls of prisons. The Police Federation must accept that its members' job is assuring the public of their safety. That depends on trust, which in turn requires an end – as the Home Secretary proposes – to freemasonry and stonewalling when inquiries are mounted. Jack Straw this week faces the unions' contumely. He should face it down, and carry on.

Nothing to declare but their greed

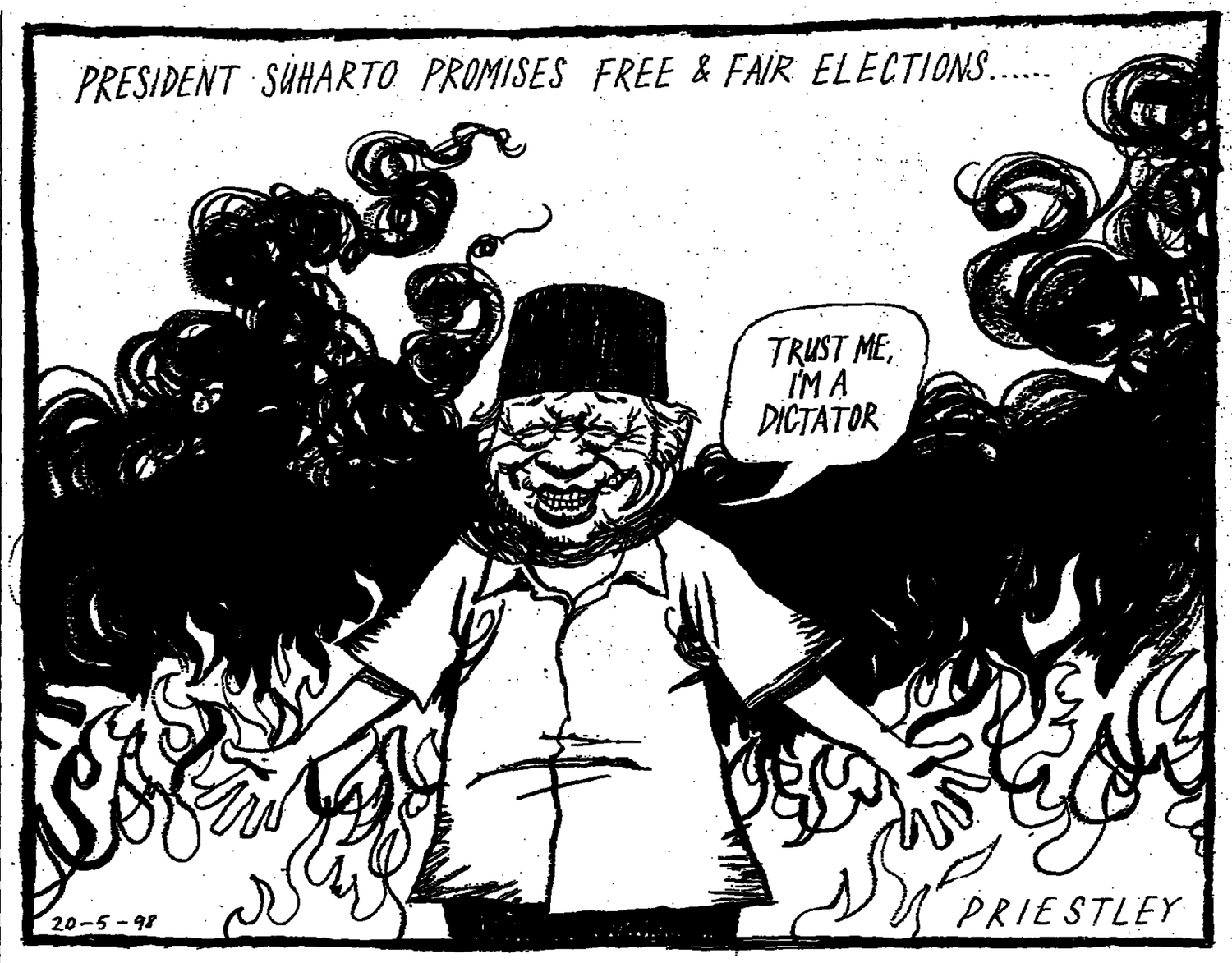
AT YESTERDAY'S meeting of EU finance ministers, the representatives of four of our European partners tried, rather clumsily, to prevent the abolition of duty-free sales for travellers between European countries, due to happen on 1 July 1999. The finance ministers of Germany, France, the Irish Republic and Spain behaved like some obviously shifty travellers trying to smuggle a few extra bottles of booze through the "nothing to declare" channel. But their try-on was never going to succeed and Gordon Brown, chairing the meeting, was quite right to dismiss their special pleadings.

The duty-free lobby has made the most extreme predictions about the imminent loss of jobs, industries, even whole airports as a result of the change. The alarms are a little synthetic. It is not as if the proposal to abolish duty-free has come out of a clear blue sky. The original decision was taken as long ago as 1991. The delay in implementation until next year was specifically designed to allow those who were going to be adversely affected ample time to prepare for what was coming. It is hard to believe that the regional airports, distillers, retailers and the rest have not been doing some quiet, careful planning to minimise the impact of the removal of their market distortion.

But even if some of the grim predictions of economic disruption were correct it would still be right to make the change. To maintain a special regime of tax-free sales purely for travellers moving between EU countries cannot be justified in an era of free movement for trade, goods and people between 15 countries. Duty-free allowances have been an anachronism since the Single Market was established in 1992. But the intrepid bargain-hunter should remember that rates of duty will still vary from country to country, and opportunities to shop around for cheap beer or tobacco will remain. Most of all, those in the duty-free lobby should be assured that old habits die hard and there will always remain a constituency for whom no holiday is complete without some heavy shopping whilst in transit.

Grow up, lads

WHAT is it about the Army and sex? To the tradition of bonking majors and cavorting colonels is now added allegations of a groping chaplain. Amid a welter of salacious detail a court martial was told yesterday that the accused padre was regarded as "one of the lads" rather than as a "godly" character. If so it would be sadly apt. There is still something unpalatably adolescent about the Army culture – from the hooray atmosphere of the officers' mess to the loutish drinking and collective whoring of the squaddies. In all this, sex is seen as a predatory activity and the victims are innocent passers-by or the Army wives for whom divorce rates are so high. Perhaps our soldiers will not really change until the Army admits more women, and – dare we say it? – a few gays.



LETTERS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor *and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.*

Unionists no bigots

Sir: I would like to draw attention to one aspect of the recent manoeuvrings over the Stormont agreement which has not received the analysis it has merited: the decision to counter the gaffe of the release of the Balcombe Street bombers by releasing Michael Stone, who murdered six Catholics and injured dozens more in a grenade attack.

This demonstrates more clearly than any other single act I can recall the complete misreading by the Northern Ireland Office of the thinking of the average Ulster Unionist. The mandarins are so sure that Unionism is at heart no more than a raucously inept rationalisation of bigotry that all that was required was to keep the blood count "sectarianly stable". That the sight of another thug flaunting his imminent immunity from the law should be used as a strategy for soothing the breasts of those concerned with the maintenance of law and order defies all logic, or rather reveals total cynicism. The wavering Unionists cannot mean what they say; they are, by Northern Ireland Office definition, Catholic-haters and so must, despite their protestations, be pleased to see "one of theirs" in triumphalist mode.

The average Unionist does not identify with loyalist paramilitaries. Can the same be said of his, by Northern Ireland Office definition, moderate nationalist counterparts? While the moderate nationalist seems to be content to be repelled by terrorism, the moderate Unionist sees law and order as the only bulwark against the Province-wide spread of the anarchy which terrorist-appeasement has created in the Maze prison. If there were signs that the Irish government and the SDLP could take an equally non-sectarian view, that, rather than this Faustian pact, would create a sense of togetherness and co-operation among moderates which is the true basis for agreement on this island.

ROY BLAIR
Larne, Co Antrim

Sir: Given the particular significance of the Crown in the affairs of Northern Ireland, a voice from that quarter seems conspicuously lacking at this critical time. It was not always so.

On 22 June 1921, King George V opened the new Ulster Parliament at Stormont. Rejecting the hard-line tendency of the official address provided, the King chose instead to express himself in language intended to appeal to the whole of the Irish people. He spoke, he said, "from the heart".

"I pray that my coming to Ireland today may prove to be the first step towards an end of strife amongst her peoples, whatever their race or creed. In that hope I appeal to all Irishmen to pause, to stretch out the hand of forbearance and conciliation, to forgive and forget and to join in making for the land which they love a new era of peace, contentment and goodwill."

The King's speech had an immediate political effect. When, the following day, Prime Minister Lloyd George unexpectedly offered de Valera a conference between the British government and representatives of northern and southern Ireland it was done, he said, "in the spirit of the King's words". A J P Taylor considered that George V had performed the greatest service by a British monarch in modern times.

PATRICIA MEEHAN
London SW9

Rights of the churches

Sir: Your rather cheap jibe "Rights are sacred – except in church" (leading article, 18 May) demonstrates a failure to understand the difficulty of protecting supposedly inalienable rights. Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights affirms the right of everyone to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. It makes no sense to protect those rights for individuals but not for groups of individuals – in this instance, the churches.

All the churches have sought in relation to the Human Rights Bill is the freedom to act consistently with our historic beliefs. Those who do not share these are free not to do so. We like the European Convention very well so long as it applies to us all and not just to those who share your prejudices.

MARTYN EDEN
Public Affairs Director
Evangelical Alliance
London SE11

Sir: I imagine you may be as fed up with unjust generalisations about "the media" as I (a Free Church minister) am with moanings about "the churches".

I fully endorse your objection to exemption from human rights legislation for the churches. Why should Christians have any problem with upholding human rights?

My ancestors in the Faith decided some centuries ago that in things that affect obedience to God, the Church (note the big C, which means the whole lot) is not subordinate to the state.

Nonetheless, where the state is doing its job of serving God's will of justice and peace for all humankind, we have no business either complaining or getting in the way. If, as I suspect, you are talking about the Church of England, rather than the Church as such, then they too should welcome pressure from government to put their ethical house in order, particularly as regards continued discrimination on ground of gender (still no women bishops), let alone sexuality.

The Rev DAVID J M COLEMAN
Flint

We are the monsters

Sir: David Aaronovitch's article (16 May) on the extinct Ediacaran way of life was spot on, both as a description for the lay readers, and for the high sense of humour and insight by which he made links to how we view ourselves biologically and ideologically.

There is, indeed, a school of thought developing that life could have taken many different turns from its inception, and that there is nothing "natural" about the forms of biology as we have them today and their "natural" selective history. This sometimes comes as a blow, even to professional biologists, weaned as they are on the selfish-genery vulgarity of Richard Dawkins and its relentless inner drive towards mean and lean life-forms. We are all monsters now.

GABRIEL A DOVER
Professor of Genetics
University of Leicester

Real nappies

Sir: The nappy debate (Letters, 2, 6, 9, 15 May) has failed to mention a "third way": a nappy laundering service.

We have been using one since the birth of our daughter last September and have found it convenient and reliable. Obviously, it costs money to have dirty nappies taken away and a bag of clean ones left on our doorstep. The cost, however, is comparable to that of disposable nappies and I feel it is worth it to reduce the refuse sent to landfill.

GRAHAM MULLIER
Bracknell, Berkshire

Sad sight

Sir: It was alarming to read that "Viagra, the new drug for impotence, can cause damage to eyesight for those who overuse it" (report, 14 May). Surely, the answer is to use it only until you need glasses.

JOHN HOLROYD
Thornhill, Dumfries

Our tanks in Jakarta

Sir: I was interested to see (18 May) a photograph of "armoured personnel carriers" in Jakarta. They are in fact Scorpion light tanks, made in Britain; according to *The Military Balance*, Indonesia has 50 of them and they were supplied while the Conservative Party was in power.

We were told on many occasions by various Conservative ministers that the arms being sold to Indonesia would not be used for "internal security" and yet on the TV news over the past few days we have seen many shots of these tanks in action against rioters.

No wonder Michael Howard is making as much fuss as he can about possible sales of arms to Sierra Leone – he and the government of which he was a member have very dirty hands and presumably wish at this moment to direct attention from what they did.

Colonel MICHAEL WRIGHT
Oxford

Sir: As High Commissioner in Freetown, Derek Partridge was widely regarded as a great friend of the people of Sierra Leone. He is surely right (letter, 14 May) to call for us to celebrate the return of democracy rather than listen to those in the British media and Opposition who were the first to shout "Rejoice" when armed invasion was overcome in the Falklands but now cry foul.

The British media will eventually tire of the story, and will find other means of continuing their campaign against Robin Cook. Democracy however remains a fragile plant in Sierra Leone and the country's diamonds a powerful incentive to those who seek to undermine it.

The British government might be forgiven for never wanting to hear of Sierra Leone again. An ethical foreign policy, however, demands that we now take a lead in helping to rebuild this war-torn country, and be prepared to act again to protect the freedom of its people.

RICHARD STOWELL
Bath
The writer was VSO Field Director in Sierra Leone 1989-92

The Sinatra legend: how a skinny kid from Hoboken achieved cricketing greatness

MILES KINGTON

From Max Rothstein Esq
Sir: In all the homage paid to the late Frank Sinatra, I am sorry that nobody has paid tribute to his abiding love of the English game of cricket.

I used to play second alto saxophone in the touring band led by Harry James during the days of Wodd War Two. As we went everywhere by coach we had to devise our own amusements, and among other things we used to stop in the country now and again to play baseball or throw a ball around. If we met another band coming the other way, we would maybe stop and play them at baseball.

Well, here comes this skinny little kid from Hoboken to sing with the band and if that ain't enough, he teaches us to play the English game of cricket, which he picked up from some limey movie or other. He always has to be different, Frankie. To humour him, and because it ain't a bad game, we learn. It was always Frank's sadness that none of the other bands could give us a game, until once by sheer chance we encountered a travelling British symphony orchestra, somewhere on the road to Cincinatti. We amazed them by challenging them to cricket. We amazed them even more by beating them! But how we did that is another story.

Yours etc

From Cedric Price
Sir, I can vouch for the truth of the above. I was a British actor in Hollywood in the 1950s and Sinatra was desperate to join our expat cricket team. "Strictly for UK citizens, old boy," we told him. "Sorry and all that. It's our rules."

"Then that means only one thing," said Sinatra.

"That you're going to become a British subject?" we gasped. "Just to get a game of cricket?"

"Nah," he said. "It means you're going to change the rules."

The next day some Italian gentlemen came to see our president, and after a short, terse meeting during which some furniture seemed to get badly broken, he announced that the rules would be changed. Sinatra joined our cricket club after all.

Yours etc

From Sir Frederick Snell
Sir: I can vouch for the truth of the above. I spent a short period in Hollywood in the 1950s as a film studio conductor and sometimes played in the same team as Sinatra. He was not an unfriendly man, but I fear he may have been abnormally shy, as he would never take the field except in the company of a friend, normally a large Italian man in sunglasses, coat and a hat. To begin with, these Italians found it hard to get used to the game. I remember once the captain shouted at Sinatra to move round to gully. His Italian friend drew a gun, went over and said to the captain: "Nobody talks that way to our boss", and he was about to lay him out when Sinatra intervened.

Yours etc

From Mr Joe Romano
Sir: One more crack out of you about Sinatra's Italian friends and this column gets damaged. OK? OK – talk some more about cricket, but nothing else.

Yours etc

From Mr Percy Fudge
Sir: As a one-time cricketing colleague of Mr Sinatra in Hollywood I sometimes noticed that when he caught the ball – and he was a good catch – he would flick it from hand to hand, then from behind his back over his head and finally catch it under his knee. When I asked him why he did it, he said: "After years of handling a microphone, that's the only way I can catch anything."

Yours etc

From Max Rothstein
Sir: Me again. I forgot to tell you that I always remembered exactly where I was when I heard Kennedy was assassinated. I was standing next to Frank Sinatra in the slips playing in a Harry James Band reunion match, and word came out that the President had been killed. We were all stunned – except Frank, who just sort of muttered: "He had it coming. He should have played ball."

"Kennedy should have played cricket, d'you mean, Frank?" I said.

"Never mind what I mean," he said.

So I didn't. Nobody did, with his mean Italian friends all around...

From Mr Joe Romano
Sir: OK, I warned you. No Italian references, I said. But you wouldn't listen. Well, that's it. No more column today. Everyone go home. Nice and easy. That's it. We're closing down. Right now ...

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

The view from the sidelines – The United States v Microsoft

HAMISH McRAE

I SUPPOSE I should start with a confession. I hate computers. I earn my living sitting in front on one, pecking away at the keyboard as I am doing now, and we have the Internet at home. But the actual technology seems to me to be at best boring, and at worst profoundly frustrating. Computers take ages to fire up, periodically crash, and use cute California-speak like "cookies" and "browsers" to describe things you don't understand, or slither into spoof legalise as in "this program has performed an illegal operation and will be shut down".

So it was with a certain weariness that I read about the anti-trust suit filed this week by the US Justice Department against Microsoft. Who cares which browser to use on the Internet? Surely when someone comes along with a better browser (or whatever) we will go and buy it. Boring, boring, boring.

But it isn't. It suddenly dawned on me that one of the main reasons why computers are so infuriating is that there isn't enough competition in the way they work. You can buy them from any number of manufacturers, all of whom try desperately to pretend that their products are different, but once you switch the things on they all behave in the same way. More than 90 per cent use Microsoft's Windows.

To say that is not to rail against Windows, as such. I'm sure it is perfectly OK at what it does, and the principal alternative, the Apple system, is irritating too. But it is a strange irony that the personal computer, the great individualistic, liberating force of the 1990s, should be so conformist in the way it works. Switch the thing on and instead of getting, say, a picture of a loved one or the FT share prices or even the maker's name, you get that Windows logo.

And that, ultimately, is why the suit against Microsoft matters. Computers have to be able to talk to each other, so there is a great convenience in their having a common language. Just as the business world has standardised on English, the computer world has standardised, first, on MS-Dos and then on Windows. But English is not owned by anyone, whereas Windows is, and the charge against Microsoft is that it uses its dominance of the computer language to force, or at least nudge, people to use its other products.

The specific issue the US Justice Department is examining is whether Windows leads people towards using Microsoft's Explorer browser for the Internet, instead of the main and earlier alternative, Netscape's Navigator. (For the uninitiated, you need a browser as a sort of entry point into the Internet – the front desk of the electronic library, where you register before you head off to look round the bookshelves.)

But the specific issue seems to me to be less important than the general principle, which is whether dominance on one product should be used to push buyers towards another, maybe creating dominance there too. I happen to use Navigator but I have no idea whether it is better or worse than Explorer. But I do know that markets work better if there are two, three or more producers of goods or services than if there is only one. Our own history of nationalised industries and privatised monopolies bears this out.

Nationalised industries were a lost cause, a form of commercial organisation which simply did not work; but we are still learning how to regulate privatised monopolies, and I suppose the US anti-trust action should be seen as a first step towards a form of regulation for information technology monopolies. Microsoft has a global monopoly rather than just a US one, but the rest of us have to rely on the US anti-trust action to act in the interest of consumers outside the US.

Relying on the US courts to act in the best interest of global consumers is a pretty unsatisfactory state of affairs. The rest of the world has to cope not just with a Microsoft monopoly, but with a United States monopoly too. This is not so bad for other Anglophone nations, but the non-English-speaking world sees itself sidelined. What is really needed is not just a counterbalance to Microsoft but a counterbalance to the US dominance of the personal computer world. How can such a counterbalance be created?

I can see two ways in which it might. The first is that somewhere out there, there exists a series of technical advances that will reduce the power of the single operating system for computers. Computers will become capable of operating simultaneously on lots of different systems. How precisely this will happen I don't know: as I said, I hate computers.

But it is not hard to see conceptually how it might develop. Take a computer which only speaks one language. Now download on to it,

> Somewhere out there are people with ideas which will chip away at Windows

not only a program in another language but also a dictionary that enables it to decipher the new programme. (For people who are interested in this, Java mini-programs are, I suppose, a prototype of this sort of development.)

The second way in which a counterbalance might develop will be when Microsoft implodes. It is a company that consists only of the intellectual capital of the people it employs, plus some licences. The glue that holds all this together is the personality of one man, Bill Gates. When he goes, gets bored, comes off the boil, wants to spend more time with his family or whatever, the company will fall apart. Companies where the capital is intellectual are much more fragile than companies that own physical capital.

So see the US Justice Department's action as a temporary patch, a necessary attempt to regulate a monopoly. But remember that all monopolies die in the end. Somewhere out there – perhaps in some university lab, more likely in some garage or garden shed – there are people with the ideas which will chip away at the world of Windows. Nothing is forever.

We can't afford confusion at the heart of the childcare revolution

SUZANNE MOORE

IN AN ideal world childcare would be a sizzling issue. We would eagerly await pronouncements from on high about the new National Childcare Strategy. We would debate the new Green Paper in pubs all over the land. We would imagine a brave new world in which the majority of women worked and therefore the majority of children were looked after by people who were not related to them and we might realise that this is not in fact the future, it's the way we live now.

In the real world however childcare is regarded as a boring women's issue, even though it is one that is central to New Labour, New Deal politicians. People who have never spent one week in sole charge of their own children debate childcare at an entirely abstract level.

Children are our future, they repeatedly intone. We will all reap the long-term benefits of good quality childcare. Meanwhile most working mothers organise a patchwork of childcare arrangements, some formal, much of it informal involving relatives and friends. Those who can afford it, fret about the quality of childcare that they are purchasing; those who cannot, feel that they have no choice whatsoever in the matter.

Yet, these two words, "quality" and "choice", are part of the New Labour mantra and are used over and over again in the new green paper *Meeting the Childcare Challenge*. Of course this is right. Quality and choice are not concepts that anyone should argue with. The question remains: how is all this to be done.

Childcare, as Harriet Harman points out, is as important as economic policy: "It is part of the infrastructure that enables women to work." Actually a national strategy on childcare *is* economic policy. The economy needs more women in the workplace to stop it stagnating.

We are already halfway there. We have 62 per cent of mothers in paid work, and 51 per cent of those will have children under five. Clearly this government has decided to build on the arrangements that most women already have in place rather than radically re-vamp them. Childcare is essentially, even when no money changes hands, a privatised business with individuals making their own, often ingenious, arrangements.

Paradoxically, people who work with children are praised, trusted and underpaid Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

As someone who for years relied on a network of friends and neighbours, I am amazed that most women manage as well as they do. I say "most women", not to be nasty to men (God forbid), but because even when men do look after children the responsibility for organising child care still falls to women.

Indeed the recent EU summit in Belfast of European Ministers for Women concluded that there must be further conferences to find out how to get men more involved in childcare, which is still regarded even in Scandinavian countries as a chore rather than a pleasure. Everyone who has done it knows surely that it is both.

Our national childcare strategy doesn't address such fundamental cultural difficulties. Although it does accept that the extended family has broken down and consequently women find themselves less and less able to rely on grandparents. *Meeting the Childcare Challenge* takes it for granted that most women with children want and need to get jobs. Childcare has become important not because of female demands – remember one of the early and laughable demands of the Women's Liberation Movement was 24-hour crèches – but because of economic necessity .

We now need a coherent national policy and the one delivered by Harman promises a childcare audit to find out what is available; a new childcare tax credit; 50,000 more childcare places; £170m of lottery money to fund new out-of-school centres; as well as a free "education" place for every four-year-old by September this year; and £20m to help train childcare workers.

> Where are the new childcare workers going to come from?

This is good news. Whether however this will make us a more child-friendly country is open to discussion. There appears to be a contradiction at the heart of this government's attitude to childcare. On one hand, we all need it in order to work, work being the New Labour salvation, yet those whose work is looking after children will continue to be amongst the lowest-paid in the country. Those who are thinking of going into the childcare business must rely only on the promise of a minimum wage.

Where exactly are the new childcare workers going to come from? Well, there are a load of lone mothers out there who are desperate to get back to work. As soon as they can find cheap enough childcare for their own children they can take jobs looking after other people's. The Catch 22 of women on low wages paying other women even lower wages will continue. Childminders know that they cannot price themselves out of the market and the market will dictate that childcare remains a thoroughly low-paid and under-valued female occupation.

Doubtless, the middle classes will be impressed by this government's commitment to the regulation of child-minders and nannies. Not an Islington evening goes by without a mini-moral panic about the latest domestic crisis. We now live with a huge servant/personal services class.

Far worse than the prospect of an abused child is the spectre that haunts working parents; the under-stimulated child, the child who watches TV instead of being educated with plastic shapes. Such people pay their cleaners more than their childminders but expect those responsible for their children to behave as play therapists, preschool teachers and cooks all at the same time.

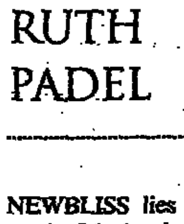
There is some confusion at the heart of government debate about what childcare means. Childcare is used at times to mean simply baby-sitting, at others to mean parenting and then again to mean education. After-school clubs are set up not only to prevent the phenomenon of latchkey kids but to encourage them to do their homework.

The distinction between simply looking after children and educating them is being blurred. If from September this year every four year old is guaranteed a place in education, then effectively we are talking about our kids starting school at the age of four rather than five, which is very early compared to our European counterparts.

All of this amounts to a sea-change in our attitude to women and work, one that is being recognised by the Government. The old anxieties about the effects on children of having working mothers have been swept aside, even by those who elsewhere talk of family values. It is simply assumed that childcare has become a parental right rather than a parental option – and this is truly radical. Access to childcare changes individual women's lives; collectively, this will change all our lives.

What is going on in playrooms and nurseries may not appear sexy but it should be. This is the revolution in our midst and one day we will look back and wonder what mothers did in the days before they went to work.

Ireland, too, is divided over how to vote in Friday's referendum



RUTH PADEL

NEWBLISS lies eight miles south of the border with Northern Ireland. It was settled in the 17th century by Murray Ker, a Protestant Scot from rocky Lanarkshire.

Why Newbliss? "When they saw these rolling fields they thought they'd walked into their own hymns," a Scottish researcher once told me.

Historically and topographically these counties, Cavan and Monaghan, belong to Ulster. Demographically, they are a mix very similar to Fermanagh and Armagh – but a peaceful one. In The Black Kesh pub, I've heard both national anthems played at the end of a Saturday night. The garage where you buy drink takes English and Irish money.

In 1922, these counties were excluded from Northern Ireland by a line drawn by the Boundary Commission. Everyone here knows that if the ink had flowed another way, there'd be villages in these shallow quiet valleys where every house would have lost someone – just like twenty miles away, in exactly similar valleys.

Helicopters would shadow the glossy Friesians, who gaze at you down every lane; fluffy Alsatians would pop from the hedges beside British boys with rifles. These are some of the day-to-day external tokens of things you hope might stop over the border – if there's a "Yes" on Friday in the referendum.

But "Yes" feels a long way off. Ingrid Adams, whose husband Gerry Adams plays accordion in the Band of Drum Orange Lodge – the only place in the Republic where Ian Paisley has a church – isn't sure how she'll vote. Like many, she's confused by the Republic's Amsterdam Treaty referendum, also happening on Friday. "It's bad enough being asked to make up your mind on one question, let alone two."

Ingrid works at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, set up 20 years ago on the border in the midst of the Troubles. It gets money from both Arts Councils, Northern Ireland and the Republic. Artists, writers and composers from both sides come and work here.

The house was left to the Republic by the Protestant theatre magnate Tyrone Guthrie, who died in 1971 after outraging everyone as Chancellor of Queen's University, Belfast, when he told matriculating students of 1969 that, as the educated élite, they should ignore "that senseless border down the road". The centre keeps Guthrie's tradition of equal employment for Protestant and Catholic. "My own wish", said the Belfast-born Director Bernard Loughlin, "is for the reintegration of Ulster's nine counties within a federal Ireland where the decency and respect I see here could prevail in a new Beneluxembourg of the North."

Every emotional and technical issue for Friday is a crown of thorns: like the TV theatricals over released prisoners. I've heard the clause which amends Articles 2 and 3 in the Republic's constitution attacked from both sides. "It means giving up our claim on the North! It's legalising partition!" said the Dublin-born Deidre, marshalling a Nationalist "No" vote. "It means a foreign state has territorial interests in my country," said John Hunter from Antrim. "It's the first step to a united Ireland."

"I *must* look at the leaflets", said Ingrid. "Some people are saying, Don't vote at all. If we *don't* vote 'yes', we'll be sitting here with no change. But – well, I don't know *how* I'll vote."

Newbliss has new lampposts. "Peace Process money,", says Eddie, driving me from the bus. And there are new pavements, also laid with money from the Special European Programme for Peace and Reconciliation that has brought millions into these border counties already. So here's one tangible result.

Maybe "Yes" won't mean new bliss, exactly, even here. But new light – or a new footing, equally under everyone's shoes – seems a handy little omen.

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Make it bloom

THOSE old roots grow deep in the *Daily Express* garden, according to Pandora's sources. As the paper's editor, Rosie Boycott, and her deputy, Chris Blackhurst, labour to re-landscape the tabloid, they continually find new outbreaks of stubborn, politically incorrect attitudes.

In his wanderings through the subeditors' patch, Blackhurst just managed to prune one offensive headline – "Two Wongs Don't Make A White" – before it went to press. Later he came across a veteran *Express* sub using the word "pervert" in relation to homosexuality. Gently, Blackhurst nipped this in the bud, explaining that "pervert" was not a word that would sit comfortably in the new green *Express* beds. "But," protested the old sub, "the guy *is* a pervert."

Fashion victim?

IS STELLA McCARTNEY in danger of letting her idealism damage her career as a fashion designer. Apparently Stella has done the narration for an anti-fur protest video that is being sent out to leaders of the New York fashion industry this week.

The video has been produced by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

However, Anna Wintour, the powerful editor of American *Vogue*, is not just staunchly pro-fur but the victim of anti-fur terrorists who covered her in red fluid outside a glittering Gotham reception last year. Pandora salutes Sir Paul's daughter for the courage of her convictions and trusts Wintour will continue to feature Stella's frocks in her mag.

PANDORA

Kiwi dons

WHERE are men's swimming briefs called "hippies"? And an "egg shell blonde" what you call a bald man? Where else but in the Oxford University Press *Dictionary of New Zealand English*. With tomes like this being produced in Great Clarendon Street, Pandora can understand why recent reports give Cambridge a clear lead over Oxford in the scholarship rankings.

Defence threat

NOT all Labour backbenchers have succumbed to the iron bleeper discipline of 10 Downing Street. Witness Bruce George, MP for Walsall South and chairman of the Select Committee on Defence, who is very cross about the delays to the Government's Strategic Defence Review. Due to go before his committee at the end of June, the review, it now appears, will not be available until the middle of July.

This would give George and his colleagues only two weeks to tackle a document he believes merits far more consideration. Hence George is threatening to hold 12 hearings to cross-examine ministers during the months of August and September while the House is in adjournment. How will George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, defend himself against this threat to his hols? Pandora expects to hear the Defence Review will be ready in a flash.

Mr Moneypenny?

THE actor Rupert Everett, who starred opposite Julia Roberts in *My Best Friend's Wedding* will be speaking frankly about his homosexuality on American television tonight. He tells the lisping TV harpie Barbara Walters that "I figure that it's better to tell them ... you're not forced to be in a defensive position when they find out about it."

Pandora couldn't agree more, although perhaps a bit more reticence would have been wise before Rupert described his dream film project. He wants to play a gay James Bond and has already written the script. Although the traditional glamorous Bond girls would appear, says Rupert, "I end up with Dennis Rodman." Shaken or stirred, this sounds like a rather potent recipe for box-office disaster.

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Nomura left standing as Nikko makes a meal of Roadchef

By Peter Thal Larsen

GUY HANDS, the Nomura executive behind some of the City's most audacious deals of recent years, has been beaten at his own game by a former protégé who now works for a rival bank.

Keith Howard, who was part of Hands's team until last summer, when he moved to Nikko, the Japanese finance house, yesterday won the bidding war for Roadchef, the motorway services group

Nikko bid £175m for the business, including £35m of debt. The offer values the 63-per-cent stake held by Tim Ingram-Hill, Roadchef's chairman and chief executive, at £88m. Nikko's late bid, which was negotiated over the weekend and signed on Monday, trumped an earlier offer from Nomura. The Japanese group is understood to have thought it was negotiating exclusively with Roadchef, and had also been hoping to sign the deal on Monday.

Industry sources said Nomura reduced its offer by £10m to £169m after an environmental report showed that petrol from two of Roadchef's service stations was leaking into the water table. The bank is also believed to have been concerned by some of Roadchef's accounting policies.

But Nikko denied the suggestion that Roadchef's environmental standards were not up to scratch. "I can categorically say that's not true," Mr Howard said, adding that Nikko's own environmental report gave Roadchef "a clean bill of health". Asked about his rivalry with his former boss, Mr Howard said: "There's nothing wrong with a bit of good friendly competition."

An adviser to Roadchef said Mr Hands was upset at not winning the battle. "Nomura thought they had won it but they screwed up. They were complacent in the way they handled the deal. Now Guy is trying to use the press to get his own back."

Mr Hands has been one of the most successful deal-makers of recent years, masterminding acquisitions which, among others, turned Nomura into the country's largest pub landlord. Using cheap debt backed by the bank's sound credit rating, he was able to outbid industry buyers for assets such as Inntrepreneur, the pub estate owned by Bass and Fosters, and William Hill, the chain of bookmakers. The deal represents a fantastic return for Roadchef's management team, many of whom have been with the company since it was formed through a management buyout in 1983.

Mr Ingram-Hill, 48, joined the business as personnel director in 1979 and rose to become chief executive in 1988. He is credited with turning it into the country's third-largest motorway service station group, operating from 12 sites.

Mr Ingram-Hill and his fellow directors will continue to run the company after the takeover, and will trade in some of their shareholding for shares in the new company. Mr Howard said that Nikko was intending to invest for the long term, and would give Roadchef's management the financial support they needed to expand the business.

Service stations have proved popular with financial buyers in recent years. Investcorp, the Bahrain-based investment group, last year shocked the City with its winning £476m bid for Welcome Break, the motorway service business which Granada was forced to sell following its takeover of Forte, the hotel group.

Directors at M&S contradict Greenbury on date for retirement

By Nigel Cope
Associate City Editor

MARKS & Spencer was at the centre of a potentially damaging controversy over its succession plans for its chairman Sir Richard Greenbury yesterday when directors gave conflicting versions of events.

The storm blew up after Sir Richard said he had been asked by the board to stay on as chairman until he is 65, another four years. However, this statement was contradicted later when another M&S director said the board had not yet reached a decision.

Analysts said that the apparent split could indicate that Sir Richard did not have the unanimous backing of the board.

In response to questions on the issue, a clearly angry Sir Richard said: "I'm retiring at 65 just as my predecessors Lord Rayner and Lord Sieff did. That is generally the retirement age of M&S chairmen and I would greatly appreciate it if you would stop conjecturing about it. No one speculated about who was going to replace Sir Ian MacLaurin at Tesco four years before he retired."

He added later: "What with all the expansion plans we have at the moment the board asked me to stay on though I had been in favour of going a bit sooner."

After studying board minutes, an M&S spokesman said the decision for Sir Richard to stay on had been unanimous at a recent strategy review meeting. "The board noted the chairman's willingness to serve until he is 65 and the board then asked him to stay on," he said.

The spokesman added: "We probably haven't handled the issue that well."

Sir Richard, who became chairman in 1991, said it was possible that he would split the roles of chairman and chief executive, which would bring the company into line with best practice as suggested by the Cadbury committee. "Seven of the top 20 companies in this country combine the roles so I'm not unique," said Sir Richard. The possibility of separating the roles had been discussed but was "not part of current planning".

City analysts said a move by Sir Richard to non-executive chairman would be welcomed. "In this age of Cadbury, combining both roles is difficult to justify," one analyst said. "He is his own worst enemy at times because he has this "chip on the shoulder" attitude towards the City. It might be a good idea to have someone with a smoother style.

"It is a shame because he is a great merchant and there is nothing wrong with his strategy of expanding both in the UK and abroad while going into home shopping."

The debate over who might succeed Sir Richard was fuelled two months ago when Lord Stone, who has presided over the growth of the company's clothing operations, was moved to take over its food operations. Analysts say he now looks to be ahead of other candidates such as Keith Oates, the former favourite, Peter Salsbury and Andrew McCracken.

The questions over the boardroom structure came as Marks & Spencer reported a 6 per cent increase in full-year profits to £1.17bn and said the fruits of its aggressive £2.2bn expansion plan would not come until the turn of the century. The company even hinted that profits might fall in the current year, which would be the first time in living memory.

"We have a year in which we have to take a step back in order to take a gigantic leap forward," Sir Richard said.

Costs rose faster than group sales which rose by 5 per cent to £8.4bn. Profits were hit by the strength of sterling and the Far Eastern turmoil which caused overseas profits to fall by £23m.

M&S staff have been given a 4 per cent pay rise plus further performance benefits as part of an £80m package.

The shares fell 4p to 576p.

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Sir Richard Greenbury, 61, above, said that he had been asked to stay until he was 65. However other directors said that the board had not reached a decision on the issue

Sainsbury denies plans to quit US

By Nigel Cope
Associate City Editor

SAINSBURY yesterday sold its 20 per cent stake in Giant Food, the Washington-based supermarket group, for £600m, but denied that the move signalled a complete withdrawal from the US market. The stake, acquired in two parts over the past three and a half years, is being sold to Royal Ahold, the Dutch supermarket group, for $600m (£375m), representing a £100m profit.

Sainsbury said the decision did not mean that it would sell its Shaw's business on the east coast of America. It also denied that the impending retirement of Lord Sainsbury, the group's chairman, who has been a keen exponent of the expansion of Sainsbury in the US, might lead to a change in strategy. "David was party to the discussions," a spokesman said.

Dino Adriano, Sainsbury's chief executive, added: "Taking control of Giant was a desirable but not essential element of our US growth strategy. We believe that Sainsbury can add value in the US food retail sector and are focused on improving Shaw's performance."

Sainsbury's shares rose 24.5p to 515p on the news, as analysts took the view that a complete withdrawal from America was now more likely.

"The UK investment community would prefer Sainsbury to be out of the US," said Philip Dorgan at Panmure Gordon. Other analysts asked whether some of the proceeds might be returned to shareholders; Sainsbury said it would invest the cash in the business.

Shaw's operating profits fell 5.2 per cent to $61.8m last year, due to a strike that affected first-half earnings and losses at stores in Connecticut.

McCullagh resigns as Biotech head

By Terry Macalister

KEITH MCCULLAGH, the chief executive of British Biotech who has been at the centre of a storm over share dealings and corporate strategy, announced his resignation yesterday.

He believed it was best to "settle any uncertainty" and to "end the debate" by leaving the company in September that he had formed 12 years ago.

The move came as British Biotech tried to regain the support of shareholders by issuing a 30-page rebuttal of damaging allegations by the former head of research, Andrew Millar.

The company's share price fell a further 3p to 59p but there were signs last night that the salvage mission was succeeding. Influential shareholder Perpetual, which has been highly critical of British Biotech management, said it was "relatively satisfied" that outstanding issues were being addressed.

British Biotech said in the circular that it had already won the support of Mercury Asset Management which is the biggest single shareholder in the company.

Dr Millar had claimed in the past that investors were being misled by over-optimistic forecasts about the drug stream. He was sacked for making his views known to shareholders behind the board's back.

Dr Millar, talking from his home in Oxfordshire yesterday said it was "a bit of a relief" to hear that Dr McCullagh was going. But he added: "That should only be the first step in a corporate change of direction."

He had called for cutbacks and his wishes were granted yesterday. The company unveiled plans to reduce spending by making 42 staff redundant, amalgamating offices and developing a corporate alliance in the United States. But company officials said that the annual cash burn would remain at around £50m to £60m, meaning that it would run out of money within three years if new cash was not forthcoming.

Dr McCullagh insisted that all these plans had been in place – but not made public – at the beginning of the year. They were not introduced in response to Dr Millar's criticism, Dr McCullagh insisted.

At a special press briefing, a shaken-looking board led by Dr McCullagh and the chairman, John Raisman, received tough questioning but in turn attacked Dr Millar for damaging the company.

The board members said a decision to sue Dr Millar for unfounded allegations was under review and accused him of endangering two clinical trials.

They believed he was partly motivated by the fact he had wanted a job which had subsequently gone to an outsider, Dr Peder Jensen, who was at the conference yesterday.

Dr Jensen, a board member and development director, said Dr Millar had acted "improperly" in peeking at the results of two studies into various uses of Marimastat and Zacutex, the company's two main drugs.

Dr Jensen, who has been with the company for only three months, warned that "blind" trials could be deemed invalid by regulatory authorities and therefore could be delayed in coming on to the market, "in a worse-case scenario".

But Dr Jensen backed up one of Dr Millar's complaints by saying it would help if there were more people on the board with relevant experience.

Keith McCullagh: Will step down in September

On the central allegations of wrongful share dealings, a poor product pipeline and bad corporate strategy, the circular to shareholders said: "The board considers these allegations to be unfounded ... The board is convinced the company has real substance and a worthwhile future."

It also said that it was "fully satisfied" that Dr McCullagh had acted honourably throughout his 12 years at the helm of British Biotech. Mr Raisman said he would be taking steps to find a replacement by looking at both internal and external candidates.

Bob Yerbury, chief investment officer at Perpetual, which holds 9 per cent of British Biotech stock, said the decision by Dr McCullagh to leave was inevitable.

"I think his position had become very difficult inside and outside the company," said Mr Yerbury.

British Biotech's circular finally confirmed that the company is under Stock Exchange investigation but insists elsewhere that the board is satisfied that there is no substance to allegations that certain of the then directors of the company dealt in shares when they should not have done.

Tony Buckingham poised to float Heritage exploration company

By Andrew Verity

TONY BUCKINGHAM, the oil and diamond entrepreneur with business links to Sandline International, is seeking a public listing for his exploration company Heritage Oil & Gas.

Business associates yesterday said he was seeking a listing on the Toronto stock exchange. It was said Heritage would be valued at "hundreds of millions of pounds". Mr Buckingham is a key figure in a network of oil and mineral companies which includes Sandline International, the military-advice company being investigated by Customs and Excise as part of the "arms to Africa" affair. He owns a 98-per-cent stake in Heritage, which shares an office in King's Road, Chelsea, with Sandline.

If he successfully floated Heritage, Mr Buckingham would be presented with unprecedented opportunities to raise capital and expand his exploration interests in Africa and the Middle East. Confirmation of the plan to list came from John Teeling, chairman of Petrel Resources, a £3.5m oil-exploration company quoted on Ofex, the lightly regulated share market. "He is going to float Heritage. That's a certainty," Dr Teeling said.

Petrel, based in Dublin, is buying from Heritage two stakes in oil and gas projects in Namibia and northern Uganda. In exchange Mr Buckingham will get £250,000 in cash, a 15.5-per-cent stake in Petrel, and a seat on the board.

"By spinning off some very small parts of his interests to us, he can get some valuations," Dr Teeling said.

Harry Wilson, an expert in oil and gas exploration who spent 15 years at BP, will also join the board of Petrel. The company said Mr Wilson would help it get further exploration contracts in "frontier locations" in Africa.

GEC investors are guaranteed shares in £4bn Alstom float

By Michael Harrison

SHAREHOLDERS in GEC will be guaranteed £1,000 worth of shares each in next month's £4bn flotation of GEC Alsthom, the jointly owned power engineering and rail group.

GEC and Alcatel of France are jointly floating a majority stake in the company. The preferential allocation of shares means that up to 6 per cent of the newly quoted company, to be called Alstom, could be in the hands of GEC or Alcatel shareholders.

The minimum subscription for GEC's 120,000 shareholders will be about £500. The offer will not be open to the general public in either the UK or France.

In a letter posted to shareholders this week, Lord Simpson, GEC's managing director, said that a prospectus would be published in early June providing more details about how to apply for shares.

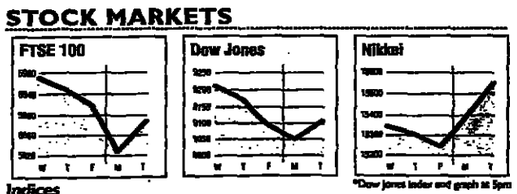
GEC and Alcatel intend to sell a combined stake in the business of between 52 and 58 per cent. The have also made arrangements to extract an £800m special dividend from Alstom, paid for out of its cash mountain of £1.4bn.

In addition, GEC will raise more than £1bn from the sale of a 24-28 per cent stake in Alstom. The company has not yet said how it plans to reward its shareholders following the float. Existing investors are in effect being invited to buy shares in a company they already own. Last year GEC carried out a £300m share buyback and a further distribution to shareholders from the proceeds of the flotation must be on the cards.

Meanwhile it emerged that Germany's Daimler Benz Aerospace is seeking to link up with GEC and British Aerospace in a joint bid for parts of the US defence contractor Northrop Grumman.

Yesterday in the markets

STOCK MARKETS

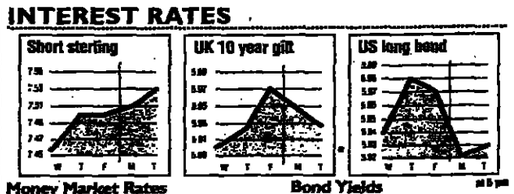


*Dow jones index and graph at 5pm

Indices

Index	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	5877.80	51.60	0.89	6150.50	4382.60	3.59
FTSE 250	5795.20	2.70	0.05	5803.10	4384.20	2.80
FTSE 350	2857.10	20.40	0.72	2938.70	2141.80	3.44
FTSE All Share	2794.62	19.27	0.69	2861.12	2106.59	3.40
FTSE SmallCap	2760.50	9.00	0.33	2752.30	2182.10	2.90
FTSE Fledgling	1486.60	3.60	0.24	1483.00	1225.20	3.06
FTSE AIM	1117.50	1.50	0.13	1116.00	985.90	1.07
FTSE EURO 100	1016.62	---	---	---	---	---
Dow Jones	9106.22	55.56	0.61	9261.91	6971.32	1.56
Nikkei	15551.65	167.18	1.09	20910.79	14488.21	0.97
Hang Seng	9449.11	37.14	0.40	16820.31	7909.13	4.27
Dax	5388.90	46.05	0.86	5442.00	3487.24	1.52

INTEREST RATES



Money Market Rates

Index	3 month	1 yr chg	1 year	1 yr chg	10 year	1 yr chg	Long bond	1 yr chg
UK	7.50	1.00	7.53	0.59	5.92	-1.15	5.87	-1.29
US	5.70	-0.14	5.91	-0.35	5.65	-1.06	5.93	-0.99
Japan	0.54	-0.03	0.58	-0.28	1.54	-1.17	2.13	-1.16
Germany	3.63	0.47	3.94	0.62	4.98	-0.78	5.56	-0.98

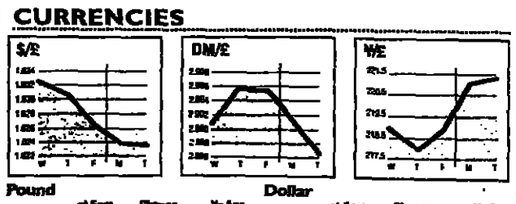
Bond Yields at 5 pm

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chge
Sainsbury	1515.50	34.50	7.48
Next	521.00	33.50	4.18
Gen Accident	1376.00	54.00	5.07
Alliance Unichem	475.00	22.50	4.97
Newsquest	322.50	12.50	4.03

Falls	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chge
Brit Biotech	59.00	-3.00	-4.84
BTP	530.00	-25.00	-4.50
Lonrho	297.00	-11.50	-3.73
Premier Oil	48.00	-1.75	-3.52
Manchester Unitd	142.00	-4.5	-3.07

CURRENCIES



Pound

	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6245	+0.06c	1.6376
D-Mark	2.8979	-0.38pf	2.8000
Yen	221.37	+¥0.68	189.71
£ Index	103.10	+0.00	99.20

Dollar

	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Sterling	0.6156	-0.02p	0.6107
D-Mark	1.7843	...	1.7104
Yen	136.20	+¥0.27	115.63
$ Index	111.10	+0.00	102.40

OTHER INDICATORS

* at 5 pm	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil ($)	14.82	-0.01	19.90
Gold ($)	300.05	0.40	341.45
Silver ($)	5.25	-0.17	4.68

	Index	Chg	Yr ago	Rlsd Ago
GDP	114.60	2.80	111.48	Jul
RPI	162.60	4.00	156.35	May
Base Rates		7.25	6.25	

www.bloomberg.com/uk source: Bloomberg

TOURIST RATES

Australia ($)	2.5075	Malta (lira)	0.6178
Austria (schillings)	19.74	Mexican (nuevo peso)	12.57
Belgium (francs)	57.98	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1662
Canada ($)	2.2879	New Zealand ($)	2.9214
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8227	Norway (krone)	11.89
Denmark (krone)	10.77	Portugal (escudos)	285.61
Finland (markka)	8.6068	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9164
France (francs)	9.4314	Singapore ($)	2.5487
Germany (marks)	2.8214	Spain (pesetas)	239.34
Greece (drachma)	485.50	South Africa (rands)	7.9803
Hong Kong ($)	12.20	Sweden (krone)	12.35
Ireland (punts)	1.1146	Switzerland (francs)	2.3489
Indiao (rupees)	60.43	Thailand (bahts)	57.50
Israel (shekels)	5.4970	Turkey (lirasi)	397893
Italy (lira)	2762	USA ($)	1.5862
Japan (yen)	216.03		
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.9248		

Rates for indication purposes only
Source: Thomas Cook

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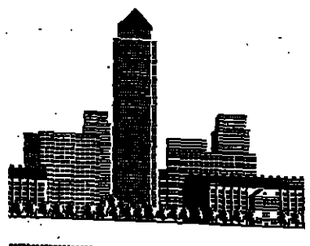

OUTLOOK

ON A POSSIBLE NUCLEAR RENAISSANCE, THE PRESSURES OF AGE AND A FAILURE OF NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Nuclear power could clean up this time

THE GOVERNMENT needed the coal crisis, a classic confrontation between old and new Labour, like a hole in the head. What it has now got, however, is the added complication of the nuclear industry throwing its twopennyworth into the debate about Britain's future energy needs.

Most of us thought we had seen the beginning of the end of the nuclear experiment in 1995, when the then Government decided it was an uneconomic proposition to fund it with any more taxpayers' money. British Energy appeared to confirm this in the countdown to privatisation by tearing up the planning permission it had for one new nuclear station and withdrawing its planning application for another. The spectre of the nuclear legacy had finally destroyed the argument for it as a fuel source. Game, set and match to the environmental lobby. Or so it seemed.

Now the nuclear industry has turned the environmental argument on its head. It has persuaded investors that decommissioning and fuel clean-up costs of £13bn are an acceptable risk. Furthermore, it has begun trying to persuade ministers that if they are to meet the greenhouse targets that Tony Blair signed up to in Kyoto, then more nuclear power is the only option.

The statistics come tumbling out. Had it not been for the nuclear industry, Britain would have pumped another 51 million tonnes of carbon dioxide into the ozone layer last year – the equivalent of half the greenhouse gases released by motor vehicles.

The nuclear lobby certainly deserves to be listened to. Up until now, the debate about Britain's future energy needs has been characterised as a fight to the death between coal and gas. Allow the pits to wither away and in 20 years time we will be reliant upon imported Algerian and Russian gas for 90 per cent of our energy needs.

In fact nuclear could be a much more powerful bulwark against the dash for gas than coal. A new generation of pressurised water reactors would almost certainly mean higher electricity prices but it might also teach us to be more economical with the juice. As for the environment, no-one really knows whether the pay-as-you go policy will be enough to cover the back-end costs when the nuclear stations reach the end of their lives. But what we do know is that right now, they are the clean men of the energy scene.

A messy business at Marks & Sparks

EVEN by his own standards, Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman of Marks & Spencer, was in a foul and cantankerous mood yesterday. The analysts were berated first. Then at the briefing for the press, the hacks got it full in the neck. What had really got his goat was that news of his intention to stay on as M&S chairman for another four years until the age of 65 had leaked. The problem was that he had leaked the story himself by writing to a journalist – apropos of something else – boasting that the board had asked him to stay. One's own mistakes are always the most irritating, are they not?

The important issue here, however, is less the manner of the announcement as what it tells you about M&S more generally. Certainly the company has not handled the question of Sir Richard's succession terribly well and it may well be that the board is not acting in unison on this issue. Sir Richard says the board asked him to stay on. Others say no such decision has been reached.

There is talk of Sir Richard splitting the roles of chairman and chief executive, which in these days of Cadburarian correctness would be welcomed in the Square Mile. But even here there is no clear view among directors on whether this would be the right approach. Messy successions do not impress the City, which likes certainty and smooth handovers rather than Kremlinology.

Particularly unfortunate was Sir Richard's choice of Tesco as an example of a company that also had a succession question – the retirement of Lord MacLaurin – but had not been the subject of a welter of speculation about it.

The reason for this is that Tesco handled its succession issue with precision and skill. Everyone knew who the chosen man was well in advance and there was no unseemly jockeying for position. Letting go is always difficult for a business leader of Sir Richard's achievement, but refusal to do so is often a mistake. Does Sir Richard really want to be around when Marks & Spencer issues its first profits warning? It is important for boards to be re-energised by new blood even if – as invariably happens at M&S – it come from inside the company.

All this said, it is hard to fault Marks & Sparks and it is on its excellent record that it must ultimately be judged. The strategy of investing heavily at home and abroad, as well as in home shopping, looks promising even though it might cause a pause in profits growth. It is just a shame that the company is allowing a management issue to cloud an otherwise bright picture.

The Biotech buck doesn't stop here

IT IS HARD, reading yesterday's "we did no wrong" circular from British Biotech, to accept that this finally puts the lid on the extraordinary sequence of allegations which have coloured the company's affairs for the last few months. A brave attempt is made to rebut, point by point, the demolition job performed on the company by its former head of research, Dr Andrew Millar, and to some extent it succeeds. Crucially, however, the circular fails to give investors much confidence in the products the company has been developing, nor does it explain adequately why the company allowed, indeed encouraged, expectations of these compounds to become so inflated.

Furthermore, British Bio admits ominously that the London stock exchange has reopened its investigation into share dealings by directors, and worse, that the the US Securities and Exchange Commission has begun a top level investigation into whether investors were misled. This could lay the company open to corporate prosecution and be the grounding for an overwhelming array of class actions against the company and its advisers. Now why does it seem so unlikely that Dr Keith McCullagh's agreement to stand down as chief executive marks the final denouement?

And if Dr McCullagh has behaved honourably and impeccably throughout, as the circular insists, who then should shareholders blame for this terrible debacle, this sickening loss in shareholder value. The company would like us to believe it's all down to Dr Millar, who it paints as an embittered, misguided man with a very large axe to grind. Whatever the truth, the finger might also reasonably be pointed at the non-executive directors, and particularly the company's chairman, John Raisman, a former head of Shell UK. Dr Millar began to raise his concerns internally at British Bio long before he went public with them. It must have been obvious that a serious difference of opinion was emerging over the company's prospects and development.

Why was it that the chairman and other non-execs failed to nip this dispute in the bud or get to the bottom of its causes? Most biotechs are run by faintly autocratic, visionary biochemists who believe in the potential of their discoveries with all the passion of a zealot. They are not businessmen or even entrepreneurs out of the usual mould. It is incumbent on the non-execs to be especially careful to rein in the over-enthusiasm of their executives in cases like these. Plainly in this case, they failed utterly to do so. The buck shouldn't stop with Dr McCullagh. Mr Raisman's continued presence at the company inspires little confidence in the future.

Tax rises push up inflation

By Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

TAX INCREASES announced in Gordon Brown's first two Budgets sent headline inflation to a six-year high last month, but also helped set the Government on course to run a budget surplus a year earlier than expected.

Official figures yesterday showed the price consumers are paying for the Iron Chancellor's prudence.

The headline retail price inflation figure jumped to 4 per cent in April from 3.5 per cent the previous month, returning to its highest since May 1992. The underlying measure, which excludes mortgage payments, climbed further away from its target to 3 per cent from 2.6 per cent.

Almost all of the increase in both cases was down to higher taxes – excise duties on petrol and a reduction in mortgage interest relief, along with council tax hikes. The remainder could be accounted for by items such as prescription charges and TV licences.

Inflation measured by the tax and price index – the broadest indicator of the cost of living, including all Budget tax changes – leapt from 2.6 per cent in March to 4.1 per cent last month.

A Treasury spokesman said: "A temporary rise in inflation was expected this month." He added: "Our forecast is for underlying inflation to fall back in July and to remain on track to meet the Government's inflation target over the forecast period."

Most City experts agreed that the rise in inflation will prove temporary, but there was concern that the higher headline rate will nevertheless feed through to wage claims.

James Barty at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell said: "The inflation rate will not stay this high, but it is unfortunate that this has happened when there is already upward pressure on wage rates."

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee has made it clear that it will not alter interest rates to offset tax-related inflation changes. But shock figures last week showing a jump in earnings growth to just under 5 per cent revived uncertainty about whether borrowing costs have reached their peak.

Separate figures yesterday showed that buoyant tax revenues helped the Government repay £3.4bn of the national debt last month, a much bigger repayment than expected. Tax revenues were nearly 11 per cent higher than the same month last year.

This surge reflected both the continuing strength of the economy and tax increases announced in the July and March Budgets. Income tax payments were up an astonishing 19 per cent year on year due to pay rises, and especially big bonuses. Higher petrol and tobacco duties boosted total customs and excise receipts.

However, the figures also revealed an equally striking picture on the government spending side of the budget equation. Expenditure by Whitehall departments was just 0.9 per cent higher than the previous April, implying a fall in spending in real terms. In fact, spending was actually lower in cash terms than it had been two years earlier.

The Chancellor has forecast a public sector borrowing requirement of £2.3bn for the current financial year before a move into surplus in 1999/2000.

But even though only one month of the year has passed, most City analysts were predicting a surplus a year early. The impact of slower economic growth is unlikely to hit revenues until next year, and even if spending starts to rise in real terms the outlook for the government's finances looks rosy.

"The underlying picture is better than the official forecasts," said Adam Cole of HSBC Securities.

The number of people visiting fitness centres has seen explosive growth

Greenalls plans chain of upmarket health clubs

By Andrew Yates

GREENALLS, the pub and hotels group, is planning to set up a chain of upmarket health and fitness clubs to take advantage of the explosive growth in the number of people visiting the gym to tone up those flabby muscles.

Greenalls plans to open its first centre in Cambridge next year on the site of an old British Telecom warehouse which will be given a £4m facelift. The centre will be designed to cater for business people and professionals.

The group has another two sites in the pipeline and could build up to 10 large centres within the next three years. They are likely to be built on suburban greenfield sites.

The new concept will also be introduced at a number of city centre budget lodges which the group plans to open over the next few years.

Greenalls already runs the Village family leisure complexes and has sports facilities at its De Vere hotel chain but this will be the first time the group has opened a stand alone fitness chain.

Lord Daresbury, chief executive of Greenalls, said: "The whole health and fitness area has strong growth potential. We plan to concentrate on the upmarket end. There is also a strong market for people over 50 which has been left untapped."

Greenalls is also planning an aggressive expansion of its pub estate from its heartland in the North West and the Midlands, concentrating on growing its leading brands such as Millers Kitchen and Henry's Cafe Bar.

Overall the group plans to invest £220m in the year to September opening 25 new sites. Greenalls will spend another £200m the following year.

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BSkyB wins case against Carlton in BDB dispute

BRITISH Sky Broadcasting has won its court case against Carlton Communications, its rival broadcaster, over an outstanding £3.7m compensation payment relating to a contractual dispute between BSkyB and British Digital Broadcasting (BDB), the digital television venture half owned by Carlton. A summary judgment was awarded against Carlton yesterday, with no leave to appeal. The full compensation is likely to total around £4.5m after costs and interest. The payment is the last part of a £30m payment owed to BSkyB by Carlton relating to BSkyB's withdrawal from the BDB venture. Carlton had refused to pay up until BSkyB secured the rights to show Premier League football on BDB's service.

Newspaper group bullish

NEWSQUEST, the country's largest regional newspaper group, sees no evidence of any slowdown in economic growth, chairman Jim Brown told shareholders yesterday. The group reported that strong advertising revenues and lower newsprint prices contributed to a 15 per cent rise in underlying operating profits in the first three months of the year. Revenues grew by 9.3 per cent. Mr Brown said the group's recent acquisition of the Review titles for £6m represented a multiple of 1.7 times 1997 sales, a much lower price than is being paid for regional newspapers elsewhere.

Directors' salaries up 5%

BASE salaries of both parent and subsidiary company directors increased by 5 per cent in the year to April 1998, halting a four-year trend of steadily increasing rises, according to the latest survey of UK senior management pay by remuneration advisers Monks Partnership. Total earnings, including bonuses, rose by more than 8 per cent for directors of parent companies and about half that for those in subsidiary companies, but Monks points out that 29 per cent of chief executives and managing directors and about a quarter of other directors received no bonus despite participating in a plan.

CU pays £207m for insurer

COMMERCIAL UNION yesterday said it was to pay £207m for Berlinische Lebensversicherung, having announced in February that it was in talks with the German life insurer's key shareholders. CU said it would issue new shares worth DM567.42m, (£196m), to acquire 94.6 per cent from majority shareholders Munich Re and Allianz AG. Berlinische Leben has DM950m in premium income and a 1 per cent share of the German life insurance market.

Irish firm bids for Trafford Park Estates

GREEN PROPERTY, an Irish company, said it offered to buy Trafford Park Estates for £146m in stock by exchanging 46 Green shares for each 100 Trafford shares held.

The offer of approximately 212p a share represents a premium of 33 per cent over Trafford's 159.5p closing price on 12 May, the last business day before Green's approach was made public. The board of Trafford said it was considering the offer and advised shareholders to take no action pending its recommendation.

"The acquisition of Trafford Park Estates is in line with our strategy to increase our industrial holdings in the UK," said Stephen Vernon, Green Property's managing director.

Last week Trafford said it will delay for two weeks a shareholders' vote on its bid for Barlows, a property developer in the North-west, to allow time to assess whether Trafford itself should be sold. Earlier this month Green offered to buy Trafford Park for £126m to £139m on condition Trafford's bid for Barlows is called off.

Trafford rejected Green's earlier offer, saying it was too low but has since postponed the shareholders' vote on the bid for Barlows until 29 May.

Green is also offering a cash alternative to Trafford shareholders of 190p for each Trafford Park share held. Trafford Park shares rose 11.5p, or 6.4 per cent, to 191p, having climbed from 159.5p on 12 May. Trafford Park, with the approval of Barlows' board, had offered to pay one of its shares for every 2.61971 Barlows shares held, valuing the company at £26.7m. The valuation took place before Trafford Park shares jumped due to Green's bid. Trafford Park holds industrial property in Manchester and other centres in the UK, in addition to several development sites.

— Bloomberg

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Canteens at work set to go up-market

By Andrew Yates

THE DAYS when staff canteens offered nothing more than curled up sandwiches, greasy fry-ups, lukewarm coffee or stodgy deserts, may be numbered. According to Compass, one of the world's largest contract caterers, employees are demanding healthier and more sophisticated menus. Workers want to chomp on baguettes and fruit rather than sandwiches and spotted dick, and quaff cappuccinos rather than plain old filter coffee.

Compass has introduced a new food service, Pentagon, to cater for this change in tastes. More salads and snack items are available, as well as the "deep pan", where customers can watch their food being prepared. The group is also planning to introduce more brands such as Harry Ramsden's fish and chips, as well as some of its own concepts such as Upper Crust baguettes. "We want to create a new breed of staff restaurant. Our research has shown us this is what people want," said Roger Matthews, the chief executive of Compass.

Compass indicated yesterday that it would fight for its independence, despite intense speculation that the group may receive a bid approach. Francis Mackay, Compass's chief executive, said: "I do not see how anybody can afford to pay for the future growth we expect to generate. We don't need anybody else to help us."

Investment Column, this page

Whitbread offloads Beefeater

By Andrew Yates

WHITBREAD has offloaded 40 of its Beefeater restaurants to a management buy-in team and a consortium of venture capitalists, led by NatWest Equity Partners (NWEP), for £36m.

The Crowded House Pub Company, as the new group will be called, plans to scrap the Beefeater restaurants at the sites and introduce a new chain of pub restaurants. It also plans to double the size of its business over the next three to four years by acquiring about 10 new sites a year. Crowded House could then look to float on the stock market, or sell out to a larger operator.

Crowded House will be run by Bernard Wright, a 48-year-old former Whitbread employee, who has worked at the group's pub business and for the last few years has specialised in strategic planning. He said yesterday: "We want to take the pubs away from the frozen chips and steak market to concentrate on fresher food in a more relaxed atmosphere because that it where the market is going."

The venture capitalists have been attracted to the deal by the rapid growth in the pub food sector in the UK. Over the past few years the UK pub food market has grown at twice the rate of the restaurant market and NWEP reckons that almost two-thirds of those people who choose to eat out do so in a pub.

Mr Wright added: "We are delighted to have secured this outstanding opportunity and we believe these pubs are the finest selection of food-led properties to have been made available in recent years. Crowded House is well placed to develop fully their potential in the growing pub-based eating-out market."

David Thomas, Whitbread's chief executive, said: "This sale is part of our continuing strategy to dispose of non-core assets, which in 1997/98 realised £144m. The outlets we have sold, whilst trading profitably, no longer fit Beefeater's brand profile."

However, he maintained that the company remains totally committed to the Beefeater brand and will be opening six new sites during this financial year, with another 10 sites acquired for completion in 1999.

The pub sector has burst into life over the past 12 months, with a flood of deals leading to the emergence of a host of new and acquisition hungry chains.

NWEP has invested nearly £170m in the leisure sector over the past few years, including the acquisition of Pubmaster, the pub retailing subsidiary of Brent Walker, in a deal worth £171m in 1996, and the £49m buy-out of First Leisure's bingo division earlier this year.

Philip Newton, deputy managing director, and David Wallis, group managing director, outside a branch of the Perfume Shop, of which there are now 38

Perfume Shop performs sweetly for Marchant

MERCHANT Retail Group, which owns the Perfume Shop, yesterday unveiled a 54 per cent rise in pre-tax profits as turnover jumped 37 per cent, producing record results.

***An ambitious programme saw the Perfume* Shop, a specialist perfumery chain, open new stores in Manchester, Middlesbrough and Romford, taking its number of stores to 38. The company plans to open another 10 stores this financial year, including stores at Bristol and Trafford Park.**

Merchant said that it was looking to build *the Perfume Shop* nationally while expanding its department stores group, Joplings, regionally. Joplings currently operates six stores, five in the North-east and one in the Midlands.

Imperial keeps up overseas growth policy

By Andrew Yates

IMPERIAL Tobacco, the UK's second largest cigarette manufacturer which was recently spun off from Hanson, is to continue its policy of international expansion to counter the continued decline in the domestic tobacco market.

Imperial Tobacco's profits for the six months to March rose just 2 per cent to £146m but its international operating profits rose by a quarter to £45m thanks to the acquisition of Rizla, the world's largest cigarette paper producer, and growth of brands such as John Player Special American Blend.

When its £650m purchase of Douwe Egberts Van Nelle, the Dutch tobacco business, is completed in July, more than 30 per cent of operating profit will come from overseas. However, that deal could be the group's last major purchase for a while.

Gareth Davis, Imperial's chief executive, said: "Sizeable acquisitions are off the agenda in the near future. We need to absorb all that and integrate it." he said of DEVN, adding: "Longer term, we are wedded to the strategy of growing internationally."

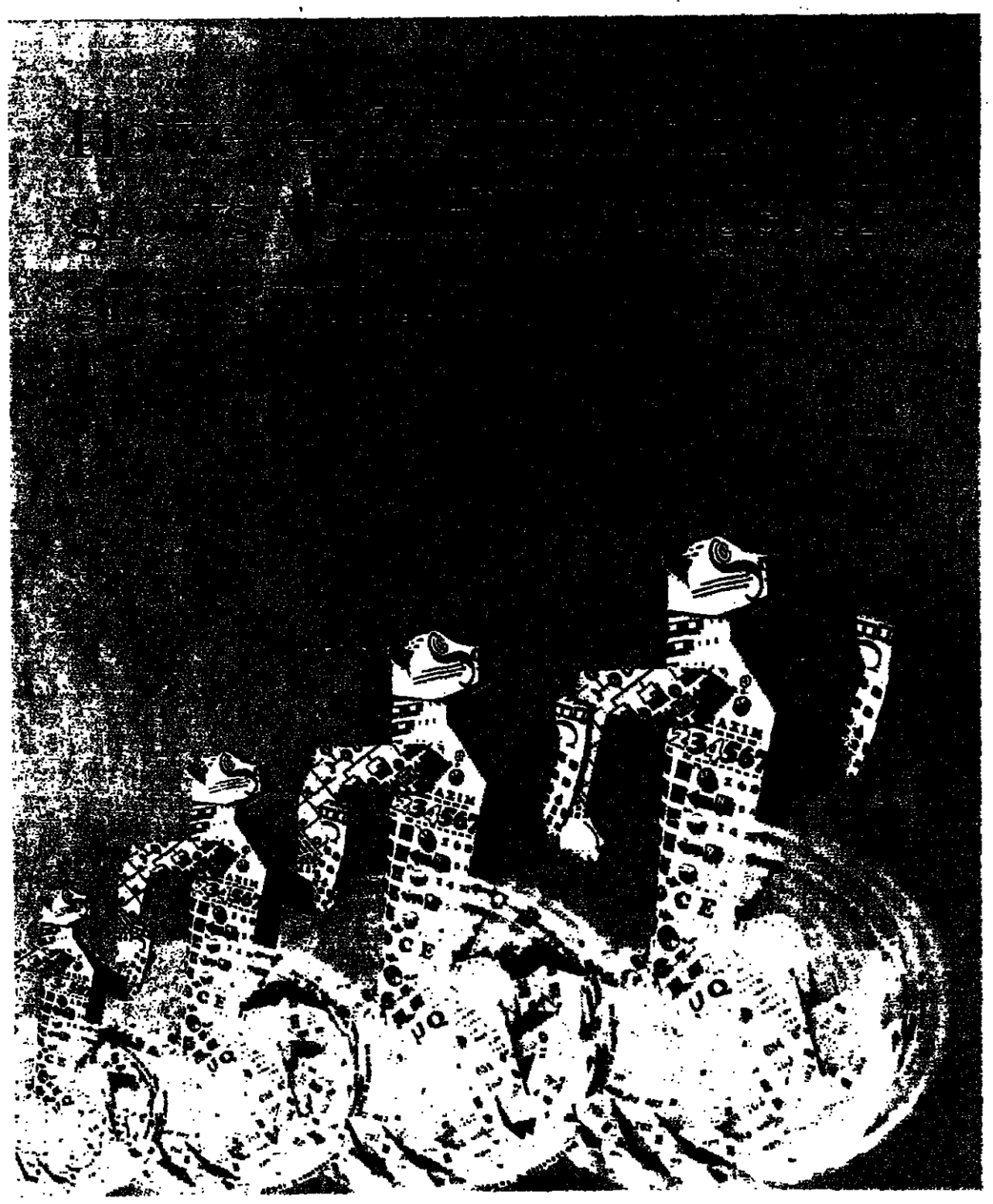
International sales growth is "pretty much across the board," Davis said. "We've had a strong performance in Europe, which is obviously our main market, but about 30 per cent of our international sales come from our targeted international growth markets of Asia-Pacific and Africa."

After a strong run, Imperial's shares slipped 1p to 449p yesterday.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Berkeford (I)	291.3m (261.0m)	21.7m (38.9m)	13.4p (24.1p)	3.2p (2.0p)
Care UK (I)	18.8m (12.4m)	2.414m (1.922m)	4.50p (3.81p)	0.50p (0.40p)
Chesterfield Properties (F)	44.48m (37.46m)	3.69m (1.76m)	17.49p (-11.35p)	13.4p (13.4p)
Greenalls (I)	474.33m (557.57m)	65.49m (57.75m)	17.65p (15.65p)	7.2p (6.7p)
Helphire Group (F)	25.5m (10.0m)	2.504m (1.057m)	10.9p (8.7p)	0.8p (1.2p)
Imperial Tobacco (F)	2.00bn (1.94bn)	148.0m (143.0m)	19.6p (18.8p)	7.6p (7.2p)
Jarvis Porter (F)	101.2m (95.3m)	14.01m (10.38m)	20.0p (14.8p)	7.8p (7.35p)
Marks & Spencer (F)	8.24bn (7.84bn)	1.168bn (1.102bn)	29.1p (26.7p)	14.3p (13pt)
Metroline (I)	17.8m (16.6m)	2.618m (2.090m)	9.50p (8.05p)	2.10p (-)
Felix Group (I)	R2.85m (3.62m)	-1.03m (0.52m)	-2.47p (0.14p)	- (-)
SCS Upholstery (I)	14.4m (10.3m)	1.55m (1.113m)	2.6p (2.1p)	14.0p (-)
Silmas (I)	11.13m (10.77m)	0.252m (0.401m)	1.69p (2.61p)	1.45p (1.45p)

(F) - Final (I) - Interim † EPS is pre-exceptionals *Dividend to be paid as a PID



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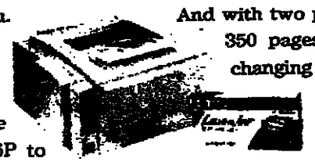

http://www2.hp.com/peripherals/main.html

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EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

Compass and cappuccino

NO WONDER Compass, the contract caterer, has attracted interest from potential bidders. It is growing at such a pace it was bound to end up on someone's takeover menu.

Turnover rose 17 per cent to top £2bn in the six months to March and pre-tax profits jumped by a fifth to £68m. Of course, a substantial part of this growth can be attributed to recent acquisitions. Even so, earnings per share, a fairer measure of underlying expansion, rose 13 per cent. That increase is an even more impressive 28 per cent if you strip out the distortion in the figures created by the rise in the value of the pound.

Compass is the first to admit that nobody can continue to grow at such a rate. There are several reasons, however, to suggest it may maintain its double-digit earnings growth.

First, and foremost, only a quarter of the £100bn catering market is currently outsourced to third parties such as Compass. In other words, there is plenty to go for in a rapidly expanding market. And Compass is well placed to pick up customers who are increasingly hiring one caterer for their global or continental catering needs.

Secondly, Compass has only just started to reap the huge potential benefits from increased purchasing power, which should eventually help margins rise to as high a 8 per cent.

Returning to that takeover rumour, the likes of Sir Clive Thompson's Rentokil Initial are known to have eyed the group up. It is that, along with the group's continued expansion, that has caused the meteoric rise in its share price and pushed it into the FTSE 100. This, in turn, has pushed its value even higher as tracker funds have piled in.

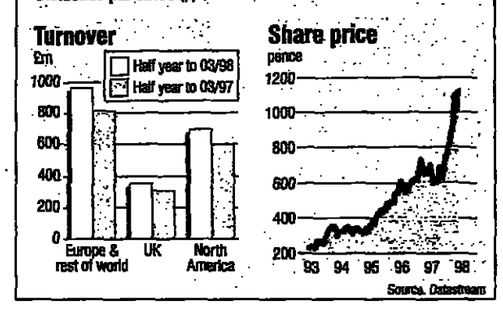
Ironically, that rise has made a bid less likely. Compass is quite happy to hang on to its independence, and who can blame it given its growth prospects.

Analysts forecast current year profits of £157m rising to £188m next year, putting the shares, which rose another 25p to 1140p yesterday, on a prospective PE ratio of 34, then 29. Even after the sharp increase in the share price the group remains good long-term value.

Compass: At a glance

Market value: £3.78bn, share price 1140p (+25p)

Trading record	95	96	97	97	98
	12 months to end September			6 months to end March	
Turnover (£bn)	1.5	2.7	3.7	1.7	2.0
Pre-tax profits (£m)	73.2	127.6	137.8	56.4	67.8
Earnings per share (p)	22.6	31.6	31.2	12.9	14.6
Dividends per share (p)	7.6	8.6	9.8	3.1	3.5



End to gloom for Berisford

BERISFORD, the Magnet kitchens and Welbilt catering equipment business, has been on an improving trend for some time now, after a period when it seemed to shower profit warnings around like confetti. The shares have doubled over the past year and rose 15.5p to 248.5p yesterday on the back of a good set of interim figures.

Pre-tax profits rose 50 per cent to £21.7m and both sides of the business are performing strongly. Welbilt, which supplies grills and ovens to the fast-food industry, has improved profits by 21 per cent even though the US market grew by just 2 per cent. It has developed new products and increased its margin by 0.8 percentage points. And the long-running strike at its Darlington factory is over.

Acquisitions are now on the menu, particularly in the Far East, where Berisford hopes to take advantage of lower asset prices. It has already made one deal in Thailand and is looking at South Korea and Malaysia too, with a war chest of up to £300m.

Magnet has also done well in a kitchens market that has been patchy at best. Though the market grew by 5 per cent, Magnet's sales rose by 11 per cent. Though the market is predicted to grow by only 2-3 per cent over the next year or so, Magnet hopes to improve profits by increasing its margins. This means there could be some mileage yet in the share price. On forecasts of £46m, the shares trade on a forward rating of 11. Still reasonable value.

Greenalls full of good ideas

GREENALLS was slow to catch on to the huge investment put into the branded pub market by its competitors. But it is finally doing the right thing and trying to catch up, and underlying operating profits rose 8 per cent to £89.7m in the six months to March.

Plans to exploit the buoyant budget hotel market by building a third more rooms at its Premier Lodge chain make sense, as does a move to set up its own up-market health and fitness business to complement the existing Village family leisure complexes.

Along with the rest of the sector, it had its profits dampened by poor spring weather, although customers have returned in their droves with the warmer weather.

With the consumer economy and retail sales showing signs of a downturn and customers in its main trading area, the North-west, feeling the full impact of the strong pound, Greenalls is not going to produce great growth. That said, it appears to have put its main problems behind it.

Merrill Lynch forecasts full-year profits of around £163m, putting the shares, which slipped 14.5p to 487p yesterday, on a prospective PE ratio of 12. The shares have risen by about 10 per cent since we tipped the group as one of our stock of the year, and they remain good value.

هكذا من الأصل

Uncertainty over Tesco as Sainsbury romps ahead

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

TESCO was the subject of a two-way pull as investment houses clashed over prospects for its shares.

Goldman Sachs, the big American group, emerged as a keen supporter, suggesting the price should go to 665p. But Henderson Crosthwaite adopted a much more cautious tone, putting the shares on its sell list.

It is negative about superstore chains in general and Tesco in particular following its Far East adventure, a £111m controlling stake in Lotus, Thailand's leading hypermarket chain.

Tesco shares hit a 603p peak in March. They have drifted since then and fell a further 5.5p to 524p, giving Henderson the satisfaction of at least achieving a successful short-term call.

J Sainsbury, however, was the best performing blue chip, gaining 34.5p to 515.5p following the surprise sale of its controlling stake in the American Giant Food operation for $600m.

The rest of the stock market recovered some of Monday's fall, helped along by a firm New York, a feeling that US interest rates will remain unchanged and a more settled display by Far Eastern markets. The crop of corporate results were generally satisfactory, free from any shocks.

Footsie climbed 51.6 points to 5,877.8. Mid and small caps, however, made much of the running. Mid caps were the subject of busy two-way trading, with the index finishing a little firmer at 5,795.2, up 2.7. The small caps, however, enjoyed another strong session and the index hit another peak, up 9 at 2,760.5.

Next, the retailer, expressed relief that its yearly shareholders' meeting did not produce more gloomy tidings, gaining 33.5p to 521p. And **Allied UniChem**, the chemist chain, bounded 22.5p to 475p following the acquisition of a 36 per cent stake in an Italian pharmaceutical wholesaler.

Enterprise Oil, indulging in a US investment roadshow, fell 8p to 580p; **Rolls-Royce** lost 3.75p to 284p ahead of its US presentations and **Billiton**, showing analysts its South African interests, fell 3.5p to 158.5p.

Grampian, the Edinburgh Woollen Mills group, held at 146p after meeting analysts; **Cobham**, the aerospace and defence group, put on 13p to 1,160p following the Henderson Crosthwaite investment dinner.

Takeovers did more to help sentiment. Engineer **TI's** agreed £267m strike at **EIS** sent the target's shares soaring 154p to 500p. TI fell 16p to 587p.

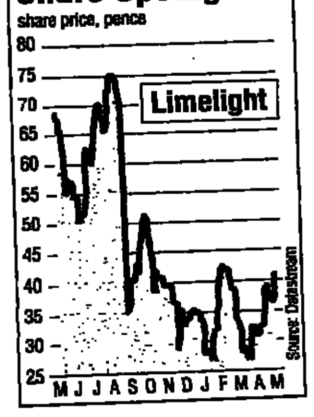
Tunstall, an electrical group, gained 30p to 159p as the management and friends pushed in a 160p cash offer.

Vosper Thorneycroft, the shipbuilder, reached a 12-month high with a 50p gain to 900p. Once again talk of bid action is in the air. A Continental group is said to be circling.

Limelight, the struggling bathrooms and kitchens group, edged ahead 4p to 41p. Bid speculation is behind the rise. There is even talk that founder Stephen Boler may be persuaded to bid, returning the company to private status. The shares arrived at 175p in October 1996 and touched 200p before crashing as profits became losses.

Share Spotlight

share price, pence



Chesterfield Properties fell 30p to 612.5p after declaring takeover talks, thought to be with MEPC, had ended because the two sides could not agree on a price. At one time GE Capital, the big financial group controlled by General Electric of the US, was interested. It pulled out, leaving the way clear for MEPC.

Telemetrix, the electronic group, charged 9p higher to 56.5p following a signalled offer for its 57 per cent owned US offshoot, GTI Corporation. The bid would value GTI at $33.8m.

Financials were firm. **Lloyds TSB** was helped by Morgan Stanley support, improving 30.5p to 864p. Others to shake off recent uncertainty included **Halifax**, up 32p at 824p and **Bank of Scotland**, 26p higher at 700p. Even **Northern Rock** managed a 9.5p advance to 558p.

Cable & Wireless was again buzzing as talk of takeover action continued to circulate. The shares rose 17p to 721p. A modest rally by Hong Kong shares helped but buyers see the group as a likely target in the battle to establish domination in the world telephone industry.

Securicor put on a further 6.5p to 437.5p. Here the story is the sale of its stake in the Cellnet mobile phone group to BT, already the major shareholder. BT, it is thought, is anxious to get full control of Cellnet and has obtained tentative government approval. Securicor would probably return some of the cash to shareholders with the rest earmarked for its security business.

Delancy Estates' signalled reverse takeover involves James Ritblat, son of British Land chief John Ritblat. He is negotiating to pump assets into the group in exchange for shares priced at around 100p. Delancy shares fell 8.5p to 101p.

TAKING STOCK

DESIRE Petroleum, involved in the search for oil and gas off the Falkland Islands, jumped 34.5p to 209p as it cautiously admitted encouraging developments. Amerada Hess, the US group has encountered oil and gas shows during drilling in the North Falklands Basin. It is "far too early", say Desire, to say whether the well will turn out to be commercially viable.

The company has a 20 per cent interest in the development. Greenwich Resources gained 2.75p to 23.5p and Westmount 12p to 157p. They each have 20 per cent of Desire.

ACTION at Millennium & Copthorne, the hotel chain. There was talk that Hong Leong Investments, the Far Eastern group with 55.1 per cent, had trimmed its stake. A seller attempted to unload 5 million but had to be content with getting rid of 3.5 million. Millennium shares fell 2.5p from their peak to 617p.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is the latest twelve months' declared gross dividend as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the shareprice divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding extraordinary items but including exceptionals. Other details: Ex rights: x Ex-dividend: a Ex-all: s Suspended: p Partly Paid: np Nil Paid; ^AIM. Source: Bloomberg
Gilt Prices are Bloomberg Generics.

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Seaq volume: 855m trades 62,321

Gilts index 103.92 +0.22

Market Leaders: Top 20 volumes at 5:00pm

Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol
Thomson Travel	26.99m	Next	13.96m	Shell Transp-Reg	10.79m	BG Group	7.90m
Mirror Group	24.36m	Tarmac	13.57m	Marks & Spencer	10.62m	Millennium & Cop	7.83m
Lloyds TSB Group	22.30m	Sainsbury	12.35m	Norwich Union	10.56m	Vodafone Group	7.83m
Centrica	17.15m	BAT Inds	12.04m	Asda Group	10.43m	Rentokil Initial	7.23m
Royal & Sun All	16.31m	SmithKline Beech	11.34m	Unilever	10.19m	Eng China Clays	6.70m

FTSE 100 index hour by hour

						14:00	5866.2	Up 40.0
Open	5826.2		11:00	5876.5	Up 50.3	15:00	5874.3	Up 48.1
9:00	5867.3	Up 41.1	12:00	5874.2	Up 48.0	16:00	5889.0	Up 62.8
10:00	5850.9	Up 24.7	13:00	5886.3	Up 60.1	Close	5877.8	Up 51.6

52 week High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code

Alcoholic Beverages [illegible]

Banks, Merchant [illegible]

Banks, Retail [illegible]

Breweries Pubs & Rest [illegible]

Building/Construction [illegible]

Building Materials [illegible]

Chemicals [illegible]

Distributors [illegible]

Diversified Industrials [illegible]

Electricity [illegible]

Electronics [illegible]

Engineering [illegible]

Engineering Vehicles [illegible]

Extractive Industries [illegible]

Food Producers [illegible]

Gas Distribution [illegible]

Health Care [illegible]

Household Goods [illegible]

Insurance [illegible]

Investment Trusts [illegible]

Leisure & Hotels [illegible]

Life Assurance [illegible]

Media [illegible]

Oil Integrated [illegible]

Oil Exploration & Production [illegible]

Other Financial [illegible]

Paper & Printing [illegible]

Pharmaceuticals [illegible]

Property [illegible]

Retailers, Food [illegible]

Retailers, General [illegible]

Support Services [illegible]

Telecommunications [illegible]

Textiles & Apparel [illegible]

Tobacco [illegible]

Transport [illegible]

Water [illegible]

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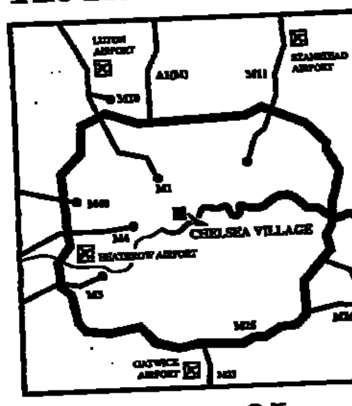

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Index-Linked [illegible]

Shorts [illegible]

Mediums [illegible]

Longs [illegible]

Perpetual [illegible]

Recent Issues [illegible]

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26/UNIT TRUSTS

Fund	Sell	Buy	Yld
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Offer ends 30.06.98 on lines installed by 31.07.98. Example: Connection to BT's ISDN2 start-up package costs £99 (ex VAT). Line rental and minimum contract periods apply.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 month	Dollar Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark Spot
UK	1.0000			0.6156	0.6165	0.6183	0.3450
Australia	2.6103	2.6067	2.6007	1.6068	1.6071	1.6079	0.9005
Austria	20.410	20.375	20.311	12.564	12.562	12.558	7.0414
Belgium	59.816	59.617	59.250	36.821	36.756	36.633	20.636
Canada	2.3559	2.3508	2.3416	1.4503	1.4494	1.4479	0.8128
Denmark	11.055	11.028	10.977	6.8054	6.7993	6.7870	3.8140
ECU	1.4716	1.4677	1.4601	1.1038	1.1051	1.1078	0.6315
Finland	8.8202	8.7909	8.7389	5.4295	5.4199	5.4031	3.0429
France	9.721	9.688	9.626	5.9838	5.9730	5.9514	3.3536
Germany	2.8986	2.8889	2.8707	1.7843	1.7811	1.7749	1.0000
Greece	500.82	503.04	508.96	308.29	310.14	313.44	172.78
Hong Kong	12.589	12.584	12.590	7.7498	7.7588	7.7843	4.3438
Ireland	1.1522	1.1486	1.1487	1.4100	1.4111	1.4080	0.7902
Italy	2859.6	2854.9	2843.3	1760.3	1760.1	1758.0	986.55
Japan	221.91	220.57	218.05	136.61	135.99	134.82	78.559
Malaysia	6.2629	6.3537	6.4660	3.8553	3.9173	3.9978	2.1607
Mexico	13.924			8.5710			4.8036
Netherlands	3.2686	3.2575	3.2371	2.0121	2.0084	2.0014	1.1276
New Zealand	3.0579	3.0508	3.0380	0.5313	1.8909	1.8763	0.2977
Norway	12.189	12.166	12.108	7.5095	7.5008	7.4863	4.2087
Portugal	297.13	296.37	294.84	182.91	182.72	182.30	102.51
Saudi Arabia	6.0935	6.0873	6.0750	3.7510	3.7530	3.7560	2.1022
Singapore	2.6864	2.6952	2.7053	1.6537	1.6617	1.6727	0.9268
South Africa	8.2625	8.3359	8.4178	5.0985	5.1394	5.2045	2.8574
Spain	246.37	245.73	244.45	151.66	151.50	151.14	84.997
Sweden	12.625	12.594	12.535	7.7715	7.7644	7.7500	4.3655
Switzerland	2.4103	2.3964	2.3750	1.4837	1.4787	1.4684	0.8315
US	1.6245			1.0000			0.5604

Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	1.6245	1.0000	Oman	0.6254	0.3850
Brazil	1.8658	1.1486	Pakistan	71.559	44.050
China	13.450	8.2796	Philippines	63.599	39.150
Czech Rep	53.337	32.710	Poland	5.5651	3.4258
Egypt	5.5376	3.4068	Qatar	5.9140	3.6405
Ghana	3752.8	2310.0	Russia	9.9809	6.1440
Hungary	343.34	211.35	South Korea	2342.4	1441.90
India	65.784	40.495	Taiwan	54.405	33.490
Indonesia	19900.1	12250.0	Thailand	63.762	39.250
Kuwait	0.4967	0.3058	Turkey	414572	255200
Nigeria	136.72	84.160	UAE	5.9660	3.6725

Interest Rates

UK		Germany		US		Japan	
Base	7.25%	Discount	2.50%	Prime	8.50%	Discount	0.50%
France		Lombard	4.50%	Discount	5.00%	Belgium	
Intervention	3.30%	Canada		Fed Funds	5.50%	Discount	2.75%
Italy		Prime	6.50%	Spain		Central	3.30%
Discount	5.00%	Discount	5.00%	10-d Repo	4.25%	Switzerland	
Netherlands		Denmark		Sweden		Discount	1.00%
SpAdvance	3.30%	Discount	4.00%	Repo(Ave)	4.35%	Lombard	3.63%

Bond Yields

Country	3 mth	chg	1 yr	chg	2 yr	chg	5 yr	chg	10 yr	chg
Australia	4.86	-0.02	4.88	-0.06	5.00	-0.07	5.37	-0.08	5.65	-0.07
Belgium	3.65	-0.02	3.95	-0.02	4.29	0.02	4.61	-0.01	5.12	-0.02
Canada	4.75	0.01	5.19	-0.01	5.13	-0.05	5.28	-0.05	5.40	-0.03
ECU	4.28	0.00	4.26	0.00	4.22	-0.06	4.70	0.02	5.09	-0.02
France	0.00	0.00	3.74	0.00	4.11	-0.01	4.64	-0.01	5.04	-0.02
Germany	3.63	0.00	3.94	0.00	4.13	0.00	4.64	-0.01	4.98	-0.02
Italy	5.00	0.02	4.59	0.02	4.59	0.00	4.88	-0.01	5.24	-0.02
Japan	0.39	-0.01	0.39	0.00	0.42	0.00	0.89	0.00	1.54	0.01
N'lands	3.63	-0.01	3.94	-0.01	4.23	0.00	4.61	-0.01	5.04	-0.01
Spain	4.20	0.00	4.10	0.00	4.35	-0.01	4.72	0.00	5.17	-0.01
Sweden	4.53	0.00	4.72	-0.02	4.79	-0.02	4.96	-0.03	5.24	-0.03
S'land	1.64	0.02	1.88	0.00	1.93	-0.03	2.39	-0.02	3.10	-0.02
UK	7.03	0.05	7.53	0.03	6.77	0.00	6.24	0.00	5.92	-0.03
US	5.05	0.03	5.16	0.01	5.58	0.01	5.63	0.00	5.65	0.01

Money Market Rates

	Overnight		1 week		1 month		3 months		6 months		1 year	
Treasury Bills					7.19	7.08	7.13	7.03				
LIBOR												
Domestic Depos	4.00	7.44	7.25	7.38	7.38	7.44	7.41	7.47	7.44	7.50	7.44	7.50
Eurosterling Deps	7.31	7.38	7.31	7.38	7.38	7.44	7.41	7.47	7.44	7.50	7.44	7.50
Eligible Bank Bills					7.22	7.14	7.22	7.14	7.21	7.14		
Sterling CDs					7.42	7.36	7.44	7.36	7.44	7.36	7.44	7.36
Eurodollar CDs					5.57		5.63		5.70			
ECU Deposits					4.16	4.28	4.16	4.26	4.16	4.28		

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract		Settlement	High	Low	Est floor volume	Open interest
Long Gilt	Jun-98	107.78	107.82	107.52	64044.00	230505.00
5 Yr Gilt	Jun-98	102.42	102.48	102.35	2044.00	9122.00
German Bund	Jun-98	108.95	108.98	108.83	34138.00	138821.00
Italian Bond	Jun-98	118.57	118.58	118.43	24315.00	121143.00
Japan Govt Bd	Jun-98	132.89	133.07	132.88	4095.00	0.00
3 Mth Sterling	Jun-98	92.47	92.49	92.46	19835.00	165123.00
	Sep-98	92.58	92.58	92.54	22944.00	109366.00
3 Mth Euromark	Jun-98	96.35	96.35	96.33	48177.00	376974.00
	Sep-98	96.18	96.18	96.16	56665.00	395563.00
3 Mth Eurolira	Jun-98	95.12	95.19	95.10	55555.00	247852.00
	Sep-98	95.67	95.70	95.65	48334.00	261075.00
3 Mth Euroyen	Jun-98	99.40				0.00
3 Mth Euroswiss	Sep-98	98.36	98.37	98.33	8861.00	55584.00
	Jun-98	98.18	98.19	98.14	8752.00	51136.00
3 Mth Euro	Jun-98	95.75	95.75	95.74	370.00	12303.00
	Sep-98	95.79	95.80	95.77	717.00	17512.00
FTSE 100	Jun-98	5915.00	5935.00	5849.00	16960.00	158465.00

Liffe FTSE 100 Index Option

Settlement Price: 5877.80

Series	Jun Call	Imp Vol	Put	Imp Vol	Jul Call	Put	Aug Call	Put	Dec Call	Put
5800	197	25	136	23	282	192	380	248	–	–
5850	167	25	156	22	252	213	331	268	537	372
5900	137	24	177	22	228	235	301	288	–	–
5950	114	23	204	21	196	261	272	310	473	413

Commodity Indices

Goldman Sachs — 5:30pm

	Base date	Last	Chg	%chg	31 Dec	%chgYTD
Index	1970=100	160.88	–	–	215.26	-25.26
Agricultural	1970=100	204.07	–	–	231.23	-11.75
Energy	1983=100	56.67	–	–	85.86	-34.00
Ind Metals	1977=100	142.75	–	–	168.79	-15.43
Livestock	1970=100	177.23	–	–	191.03	-7.22
Prec Metals	1973=100	400.80	–	–	463.54	-13.53

Energy

* prices at 5:30pm

Brent Crude($/barrel) IPE	Close	Chg	Vol	Gas oil($/tonne) IPE	Close	Chg	Vol	WTI Crude($/barrel) NYM	Last	Chg	Products($/tonne) Spot CIF NW Eur	
Jul	14.46	-0.02	19184	Jun	128.50	0.50	8948	Jun	13.80	-0.47	Gasoline 95	162.50
Aug	14.88	0.02	6084	Jul	131.50	1.00	3669	Jul	15.25	0.13	Naphtha	141.00
Sep	14.92	0.03	2191	Aug	134.75	1.00	903	Aug	15.66	0.16	Gasoil	127.50
								Sep	16.26	0.22	Fuel Oil (3.5%s)	64.00

Industrial Metals

LME ($/tonne)	Cash		Chg	3 month		Chg	LME stocks	Chg
Aluminium HG	1349.5	1350.5	16.50	1377	1377.5	13.5	536700	–
Aluminium Alloy	1232	1237	-3.00	1250	1253	-4	51520	–
Copper A	1657	1658	7.00	1678	1679	8	272150	–
Lead	538.5	539.5	7.50	554.5	555	7	107325	–
Nickel	4785	4795	10.00	4870	4875	5	64248	–
Tin	5945	5955	-20.00	5885	5890	-10	5480	–
Zinc	1045.5	1047.5	4.00	1073	1073.5	3.5	445250	–

Precious Metals

pm fix/$ per oz		Day's chg	Year's chg	pm fix/£ per oz		Day's chg	Year's chg	Coins ($)		Day's trade	Yr's chg
Platinum	383.00	-12.00	5.50	Platinum	242.00	-8.00	5.60	Krug'rands	300.75	-37.75	
Palladium	395.00	-22.00	225.00	Palladium	243.20	-14.20	139.50	Sovs	69.84		
Silver	5.25	-0.07	0.57	Silver	3.23	-0.11	0.36	Nobles	384.55		
Gold	299.70	-0.60	-41.00					Maple Leaf	311.25	-42.55	

Agricultural

* at 5:30pm

Cocoa		Coffee		Barley		Potatoes		Lge Potatoes	
LIFFE	£/tonne	LIFFE	$/tonne	LIFFE	£/tonne	LIFFE	£/tonne	ATA	$/25k kg
May98	1111.00	May98	2075.00	May98	75.50	May98	130.00	May98	645.00
Jul98	1127.00	Jul98	1905.00	Sep98	73.75	Jun98	140.00	Jun98	639.75
Sep98	1147.00	Sep98	1835.00	Nov98	75.75	Nov98	80.00	Apr99	637.25
Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0
White Sugar*		**Freight**		**Wheat**		**Corn***		**Soya Beans***	
LIFFE	$/tonne	LIFFE	$10/dx pt	LIFFE	$/tonne	CBOT	Cents/bshl	CBOT	$/5k bshls
Aug98	255.80	May98	960.00	May98	74.50	May98	238.75	May98	19.00
Oct98	256.30	Jun98	910.00	Jul98	75.65	Jul98	245.75	Jul98	26.10
Dec98	257.50	Jul98	905.00	Sep98	76.75	Sep98	252.25	Aug98	28.60
Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0	Vol:	0

100 Largest Insurance Funds

Fund	Bid	Offer		Fund	Bid	Offer	
AXA Eq & Law Distribution Ser 6	118.50	124.30	GBX	London & Manch Flexible ExPnAcc	0.00	0.00	GBX
AXA Equity&Law Balanced Ser6	1082.30	1139.30	GBX	London Equity	1481.30	1481.00	GBX
AXA Equity&Law Higher Inc Ser6	1808.80	1904.10	GBX	London Mixed	880.20	880.20	GBX
AXA Equity & Law UK Eq Ser6	1698.50	1787.90	GBX	M & G Managed Bond Acc	1280.30	1347.40	GBX
Abbey Equity Ser 4	354.60	373.30	GBX	M & G Recovery Bond Acc	1258.10	1321.10	GBX
Abbey International Ser 4	246.30	259.30	GBX	Merchant Investors Managed	697.80	734.50	GBX
Abbey Managed Ser 4	954.00	1004.30	GBX	Midland Balanced	125.20	131.80	GBX
Abbey National Managed	180.70	190.30	GBX	Midland UK Equity	165.30	175.10	GBX
Abbey National UK Equity	205.90	216.80	GBX	NPI Managed	716.70	754.40	GBX
Albany Equity Acc Ser 3	2459.90	2589.40	GBX	National Westminster Grth Mgd	165.90	175.20	GBX
Albany Multiple Inv Acc Ser 3	1482.40	1560.40	GBX	National Westminster Security Mgd	147.00	154.60	GBX
Allied Dunbar Distribution Bond	285.0	310	GBX	National Westminster UK Eq Ser 2	170.20	178.40	GBX
Allied Dunbar Equity Acc	2196.70	2312.40	GBX	Norwich Union Mgd Ex NUAM(MF)	2270.00	2389.60	GBX
Allied Dunbar Gen 4 High Inc Ser2	53.20	56.00	GBX	Norwich Union Unitised Mgd	214.65	228.15	GBX
Allied Dunbar Managed Acc	1643.30	1729.80	GBX	Norwich Union Unitised With Profits	181.79	191.36	GBX
Allied Dunbar Property Acc	782.10	823.80	GBX	Pearl Equity (Nat)	482.50	498.90	GBX
Barclays Equity Acc Ser 2	1475.40	1553.10	GBX	Pearl Managed (Nat)	382.00	402.30	GBX
Barclays International Acc Ser 2	528.90	556.80	GBX	Prudential Individual Mgd Ser 2	1199.00	1262.20	GBX
Barclays Managed Acc Ser 2	797.40	839.40	GBX	Prudential Prufund Managed	905.40	954.30	GBX
Black Horse Income Fund Ser 2	1228.19	1290.72	GBX	Royal Life Managed	578.80	608.20	GBX
Black Horse Managed Invest Ser2	709.78	747.14	GBX	Royal Scottish Growth Managed	250.30	263.80	GBX
Canada Managed Ser 2	1047.40	1102.50	GBX	Royal Scottish UK Equity	276.30	290.90	GBX
Clerical Medical With Profits Bond	119.10	119.10	GBX	Scottish Amicable Equity Ser 1	988.00	1041.20	GBX
Clerical Medical/Fidelity Equity	549.00	577.90	GBX	Scottish Amicable Managed Ser 1	672.50	707.90	GBX
Clerical Med/Fidelity Sophi/Mgd	433.20	456.00	GBX	Scottish Equitable Mixed	383.00	409.90	GBX
Commercial Union Managed	602.70	634.50	GBX	Scottish Life Managed	429.90	452.70	GBX
Commercial Union UK Equity	833.20	877.10	GBX	Scottish Mutual Safety	317.80	334.50	GBX
Commercial Union With Profit	149.10	157.00	GBX	Scottish Prov Inst With-Profits	146.40	154.30	GBX
Eagle Star Managed (2)	236.40	248.90	GBX	Scottish Provident Inst Blu Chip Ed	271.70	286.10	GBX
Family Performance	209.94	220.95	GBX	Scottish Widows International	624.30	657.30	GBX
Friends Provident Managed	473.90	498.90	GBX	Scottish Widows Mixed	671.70	707.00	GBX
Friends Provident UK Equity	685.20	721.30	GBX	Standard Equity	1798.80	1894.40	GBX
Friends Provident With Profit	228.00	240.00	GBX	Standard European	278.00	290.80	GBX
Gan Managed	422.90	445.30	GBX	Standard Far East	137.40	144.70	GBX
General Acci Prov Mut Mgd Ord	711.00	748.40	GBX	Standard Fixed Interest	523.40	552.00	GBX
General Acci Prov Mutual Eq Ord	1237.10	1302.23	GBX	Standard Managed	1073.50	1130.10	GBX
General Accident Unitised With-Prft	174.30	183.50	GBX	Sun Alliance Equity	1597.90	1682.00	GBX
Guardian International Acc	873.40	919.30	GBX	Sun Alliance Managed	1112.50	1171.00	GBX
Guardian Managed Acc	994.80	1047.10	GBX	Sun Life Deferred Distribution Acc	255.50	269.00	GBX
Guardian Royal Exchange Eq Acc	1681.80	1770.40	GBX	Sun Life Distribution	362.00	381.00	GBX
Hill Samuel Equity	974.30	1031.70	GBX	Sun Life Managed Acc	1326.20	1396.00	GBX
Hill Samuel Managed Ser A	833.00	881.50	GBX	SunLife Of Canada ConfederatnEq	1295.40	3110.80	GBX
Irish Life Global Mgd Prem Ser3	868.30	914.70	GBX	SunLife Of Canada MapleLfEqAc	917.80	966.30	GBX
J Rothschild JRA/St James Pl Mgd	248.10	262.30	GBX	SunLife Of Canada MapleLfMgdAc	668.20	690.70	GBX
Legal & General Equity Acc C2	1798.00	2103.20	GBX	Sun Life UK Equity Acc	2493.80	2514.60	GBX
Legal & General Intern Ac C2	719.70	757.60	GBX	Sun Life of Canada Century Equity	0.00	0.00	GBX
Legal & General Managed AccC2	1245.90	1309.40	GBX	Sun Life of Canada Century Mgd	0.00	0.00	GBX
Lincoln (Impl) UK Equity Acc	784.70	864.90	GBX	TSB Equity	591.00	622.30	GBX
Lincoln (Impl) UK Mgd Acc	395.90	416.60	GBX	TSB Homebuyer	336.70	354.80	GBX
Lincoln (Laurentian) MgdAcc Ser3	775.00	816.70	GBX	TSB Managed	428.20	450.87	GBX

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Seagram set for PolyGram victory

POLYGRAM, the world's largest music group, looks set to be sold to Seagram of Canada after a second buyout team dropped out of the bidding.

According to American press reports, the investment group led by Michael Ovitz, a former Walt Disney president, has decided not to bid for Polygram. The Ovitz group, which comprised the leveraged buyout firms Forstmann Little & Co and Thomas H Lee, is the second buyout team to drop out of the race after the withdrawal of a group led by Texas Pacific.

Industry sources now say Polygram – which owns the record labels behind acts such as U2 and Sheryl Crow and whose roster of artists includes Elton John, Bon Jovi and Luciano Pavarotti – will almost certianly fall to Seagram for a cash-and-shares offer worth around $10.5bn.

The board of Philips Electronics, which owns 75 per cent of Polygram, met last night to discuss Seagram's offer. Philips declined to comment yesterday on media speculation surrounding the deal.

Philips executives are understood to have met Edgar Bronfman, Seagram's chief executive, in New York last week. The Bronfman family owns a controlling 35 per cent stake in Seagram.

Rumours circulated that the Seagram board had met on Monday to discuss the bid and were considering combining an offer for Polygram with a sale of its Tropicana Beverage Group and its stake in Time Warner.

According to some sources, Seagram is considering spinning off its Tropicana fruit businesses through an initial public offer and selling its 11 million Time Warner shares to help fund its acquisition of Polygram.

Seagram wants to add Polygram, the world's largest record company with 17 per cent of the $40bn world market, to its Universal Music division. A deal would transform Seagram's music interests currently ranked sixth in the league of global music companies, behind companies such as PolyGram, Time Warner, EMI and Bertelsmann.

However, Universal Music still has an estimated market share of 6 per cent, prompting market specualtion that any deal could prompt competition concerns.

Seagram's interest in Polygram was sparked by Philips' declaration earlier this month that it was reviewing its stake in PolyGram. Last Thursday Philips confirmed it was talking to Seagram.

– Agencies

TI bids £267m for EIS group

By Peter Thal Larsen

TI, the engineering giant, has the financial firepower to spend another £500m on acquisitions, although it is unlikely to do another deal in the near future, the chairman, Sir Christopher Lewinton said yesterday.

He was speaking after TI launched a £267m agreed offer for EIS, the quoted fluids and aerospace engineering group. If the deal goes through, it will take TI's spending on acquisitions in recent months to about £600m.

However, Sir Christopher pointed out that the company was about to receive a £200m payment for its 50 per cent stake in Messier-Dowty, the landing gear maker, which it sold late last year.

"We've got the capacity to spend £500m and we're going to use it," Sir Christopher said, pointing out that the group always had three or four targets in its sight. "You just don't know when they're going to pop up."

"If the ideal situation came up we would be able to move on it," he said, though he added that he thought such a scenario was "unlikely".

Sir Christopher said that EIS fits well with TI's existing strategy, describing it as a "double bolt-on". EIS's couplings and fluid technology business will be integrated with the group's John Crane business, while the aerospace side can slot into TI's Dowty division.

TI said the priority would be to offer EIS's products to its customers around the world, and to improve the group's margins, which have traditionally been around 6 per cent. TI currently makes margins of 12 per cent.

EIS has grown quickly in recent years through an aggressive acquisition policy. Among others it bought Aerostructures Hamble, the aerospace design consultancy which suffered a disastrous flotation in 1995. However, investors were concerned about the group's propensity for issuing shares to pay for acquisition and EIS's share price had suffered.

Before yesterday, they had slipped from a high of 441p to 346p. They put on 144p to close at 500p yesterday.

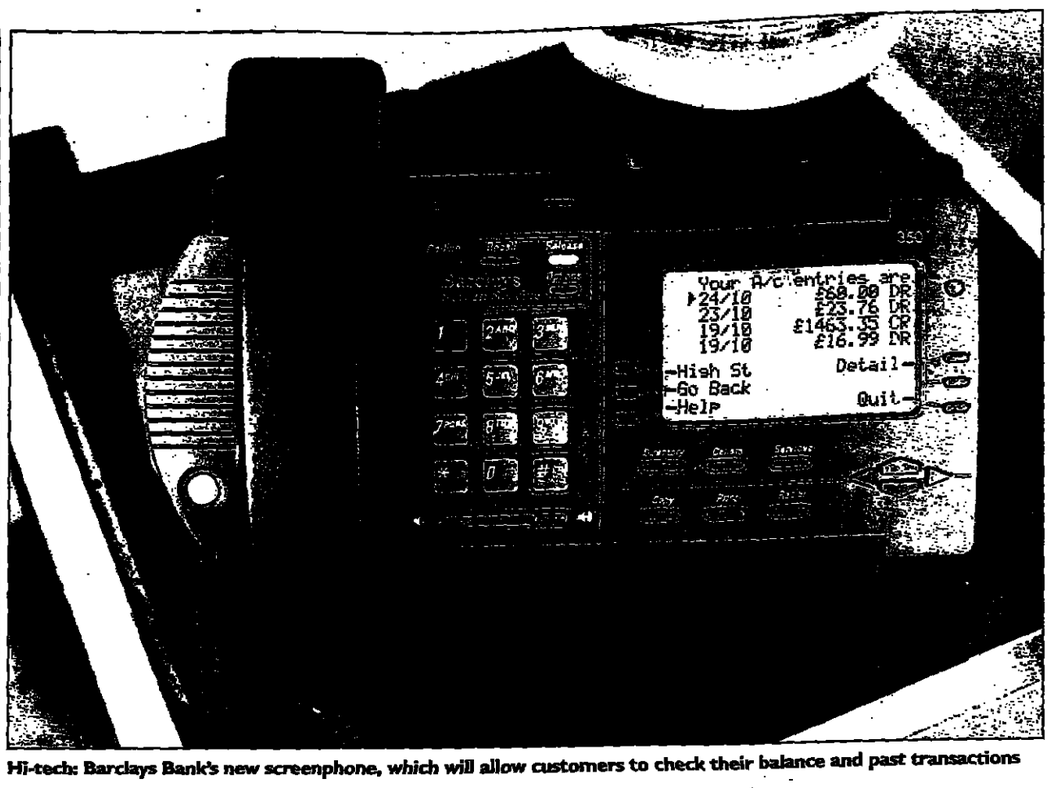
Bill Laule, TI's recently appointed chief executive, said EIS had a collection of good businesses but they had not been integrated properly. "They've got good products which are good quality, but they haven't been able to globalise as fast as their customers wanted," he said.

TI has recently pursued a strategy of introducing global business units, allowing it to serve its customers all around the world. The acquisition of EIS is the latest in a string of bolt-on deals. The company recently spent £212m on S&H, a fluid handling manufacturer. It also bought Sealol, a mechanical seals maker, for £62m.

Analysts broadly welcomed the acquisition. "It looks as if most of it sits reasonably tight with what TI does." said Rory Sweetman, analyst at Greig Middleton. "It looks financially a very shrewd deal and it shows that TI is getting much more aggressive in its whole growth strategy now that it has got the new chief executive and a whole new team." However, the shares dropped 16p to 587p.

Sir Christopher accepted that investors might be worried that the company was taking on too many acquisitions. TI has grown aggressively under his control, and almost all the businesses the company now controls are less than 10 years old.

However, he pointed out that the appointment of Mr Laule as chief executive in January allowed him to spend more time pursuing acquisitions. "Bill runs the business and I do the deals," Sir Christopher said.



Hi-tech: Barclays Bank's new screenphone, which will allow customers to check their balance and past transactions

Barclays 'screenphone' a first

By Lea Paterson

BARCLAYS Bank is to launch the UK's first "screenphone" banking service. The phone, which is being piloted in 10 towns across the UK later this summer, will allow Barclays customers to check balances and past transactions directly.

For more complex services, such as paying bills or transferring money between accounts, customers will still need to speak to an operator.

Customers will also be able to use the screenphone to order goods such as wine, tickets and CDs, as well as to view weather reports.

Gordon Rankin, the managing director of personal banking at Barclays, said the screenphone could be rolled out nationwide as early as next year. He also noted the popularity of screenphones in North America, especially Canada, where there are about 120,000 screenphones with banking services.

According to Mr Rankin, Barclays will be able to expand the range of services offered by the screenphone and add further technology. However, Mr Rankin added the bank would be wary of adding too much technology to the phone. "One of the great advantages of screen banking is that it's simple to use," he said. The phone will cost £99, and there will be a £5 monthly service charge.

RSA under the weather as first-quarter profits plunge

By Andrew Verity

ROYAL & SunAlliance, Britain's second biggest insurer, yesterday unveiled a 58 per cent plunge in first-quarter profits because of El Niño, ice storms, floods and fires.

Paul Spencer, the group finance director, said: "We have been battered from all sides. In Peru and Australia there's been the El Niño effect. But that's what our business is about and we shouldn't be frightened of it."

After two years of mild weather across the world, RSA will pay claims on £97m for weather losses from 1 January to 31 March, up by 60 per cent on the same quarter last year. Pre-tax profits fell from £209m to just £89m.

The losses go beyond the January storms in the UK. In Canada, a £14m profit was wiped out by Quebec's ice storm in January. Severe Australian storms and a giant fire in New Zealand pushed its international business into a similar loss.

Bob Mendelsohn, the group chief executive since December, said: "The weather has influenced our results in the first three months ... However, the underlying experience continues in line with our expectations."

RSA warned it would also be hit in the second quarter by claims for damages costing £45m following floods and storm damage in early April. The strong pound in the first quarter had also cost £16m.

Shares in the company have underperformed the market by 19 per cent over the past three months following a heavy restructuring in December.

The company's two most senior executives both resigned after rumours of a clash over corporate strategy. Roger Taylor, formerly of SunAlliance, and Richard Gamble, formerly of Royal Insurance, had shared leadership of RSA since those companies merged.

Mr Mendelsohn said the benefits of the merger were now finally coming through. "We are well on target to secure the £235m of annualised cost savings."

RSA's savings and investment business thrived in the UK in the first quarter of 1998, where new business boomed by 34 per cent. Sales of savings products elsewhere were sluggish.

However, the company is beginning to opt out of a worldwide squeeze on insurance rates which has seen many insurers take losses in an effort to keep their customers.

RSA has adopted a survival strategy of protecting its margins even if it means losing market share. It has begun to edge up its rates on personal motor insurance and commercial property.

But it described other commercial insurance – such as commercial motor insurance – as "very unsatisfactory".

Some analysts downgraded the shares from buy to hold yesterday. One said a climate of lower interest rates would damage investment income in years to come. Shares rose by 15p yesterday to close at 654p.

Ports owner's US expansion

ASSOCIATED British Ports yesterday said it had agreed to buy American Port Services, operator of six US ports, for £106m cash in an attempt to broaden its base beyond the UK.

The 190p-a-share offer is a 15 per cent premium to the American Port Services share price on 6 May, a day before ABP announced it was in talks to buy the London-listed port operator at that price.

For ABP, the move is the latest in a series of measures to boost returns, promised by managing director Andrew Smith, who joined the UK's largest port owner in February 1997.

"APS is an excellent strategic acquisition for ABP which allows us to extend our port operations into North America," Smith said in a statement.

ABP shares were down 2p at 365p. APS shares rose 6.5p to 186p.

APS was established in 1995 as a vehicle to sell shares in the Port of Benicia in California and later expanded with the purchase of the Hobelmann Group, a port services business on the eastern seaboard of the US. APS also manages nine US airports.

The company had profits before tax of £6.3m on sales of £37.5m last year, compared with ABP's pre-tax profit of £99m on sales of £286.9m.

With 23 ports, ABP handles about one-quarter of the UK's seaborne trade. Smith has reorganised its ports operation and launched a £100m share buy-back in an effort to accelerate earnings growth.

– Bloomberg

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

TERRY MACALISTER

IT'S hard to imagine a more ashen-faced and worried-looking group of people than the five members of the British Biotech board come to explain why chief executive **Dr Keith McCullagh** had resigned.

The former Shell supremo **John Raisman** told a hastily convened press conference that it was highly regrettable McCullagh had to go, given he had acted "honourably" all along. Raisman sidestepped any suggestion that he, as chairman, could have done anything to save the day. McCullagh himself was shaking and clearly unhappy at leaving the company he founded 12 years ago.

But the chief executive, who departs in September, avoided getting into a slanging match with the man he had earlier sacked and who brought about his downfall, **Dr Andrew Millar**. For his part, Millar was critical of McCullagh but said he was took no delight in his removal. "He (McCullagh) did an amazing amount and had lots of courage but at a certain point he lost it. He should have been gently led away," said Millar from his Oxfordshire home.

So what are the chances of Millar, as a self-confessed whistleblower, getting work after allegedly "betraying" his employers by telling top shareholders the company was not doing as well as the board said?

He says: "I have had quite a few people ring me up and am about to go to Aberdeen to discuss a possible job. But it's impossible to know whether people (employers) want someone like me, with 'belligerent integrity', as someone described it."

IT CAN be tough out there in the job market, which is why you do not want a new boss sweeping in and making everybody reapply for their own jobs. Latest group to be subjected to this procedure is made up of members of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee.

The Treasury Select Committee has set dates for confirmation hearings for its nine members, including the Bank of England's Governor, **Eddie George**, his deputies **Mervyn King** and **David Clementi**, the Bank's markets supremo **Ian Plenderleith** and four outside members, **Sir Alan Budd, Charles Goodhart, DeAnne Julius** and new boy **John Vickers**.

They get half an hour each next month to tell the MPs just why they deserve the job of setting interest rates.

There is some comfort, however. The questions will be limited to issues concerning "the appointee's personal independence and professional competence". It would take a bold MP to question the competence of the MPC's eggheads.

As for independence, it would be hard to form a less malleable group than the one the Chancellor has appointed.

IN AMONG all the allegations and counter-allegations at British Biotech, the one word that has not surfaced is the accountants' favourite: fraud.

You might have thought the number-crunchers were more interested in the sharpness of the pencils but anyone who follows the accountancy profession will know it's fraud that turns them on now. Latest proof is Coopers & Lybrand teaming up with West Midlands Police to host a first seminar in Birmingham on the subject.

JOHN GUINNESS, the mandarin responsible for privatising British Gas and the electricity industry, is retiring as chairman of British Nuclear Fuels, the state-owned nuclear fuel reprocessing group. He departs, he says, on a high note with a £13bn order book and the merger with the nuclear generator Magnox Electric completed successfully. Of course the one triumph that eluded him in his six years at the helm of BNFL was persuading his political masters that it too was a suitable candidate for privatisation.

USING a sharp pencil is obviously a skill that comes easily to businessmen and women. For instance, there was the P&O chairman, Lord Sterling, writing about duty-free in yesterday's edition of the *Sun*. He is not quite up to **Richard Littlejohn** standards. About his meanest words were addressed to EU finance ministers, to whom he says: "We are not looking for hand-outs." Slightly more poetic stuff is believed to be on offer from Charterhouse Bank director **Janet Neel**. She has written a novel called *A Timely Death*, which sounds a bit more racy than *Save Our Duty-Free*.

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Pascoe is on fast track to success

A hurdler turned businessman aims to save British athletics. **Mike Rowbottom** reports

ALAN PASCOE is not comfortable with being referred to as a multi-millionaire, but one is on safe ground in referring to him as a millionaire.

The former Commonwealth and European 400 metres hurdles champion has built on his track success since retiring from the sport in 1978. A prime mover in the world of sports sponsorship, he is a figure who, like the current chief executive of Britain's athletics administration, Dave Moorcroft, commands respect. His decision to step away from the corporate lifestyle to concentrate on a more specific area – that of ensuring a healthy climate for athletics sponsorships – has not been taken lightly.

Alan Pascoe: Full of ideas to boost the appeal of athletics

Although there is a considerable element of personal interest – "I want to play a part in helping British athletics get back off its uppers" – Pascoe has not got where he is today by ignoring the small print. He has been involved in lengthy negotiations over the extent of his control of the commercial operation in the sport. Eventually, a balance has been struck which offers him sufficient leeway to employ the talents which he first displayed in 1985 when he obtained the marketing rights for British athletics and transformed the Federation's annual income of £300,000 to £5m.

His cut of that figure was 20 per cent. What percentage he will take in his new role was not discussed. Pascoe, nevertheless, maintains that he has taken a real risk in selling out his shares in Alan Pascoe International – the group he has built up to a point where its last registered turnover was more than £50m, in order to concentrate on the area where he first made a business impact.

"If this does not work, people will turn round and say 'He wasn't as good as he thought he was.' " There is also the possibility of financial loss as the new company involved at Fast Track is underwritten by Pascoe himself.

Underlying his change of direction is a sense that he was drifting further and further away from direct involvement with clients, which has always been his great strength. "There seemed to be fewer and fewer situations where I could get my hands dirty," he said.

Pascoe is in search of the buzz which he got from his first involvement in business deals. His sporting background has always been an asset to him in his new arena. "I'm convinced there is a carry-over between sport and business… When you have to get up in the dark in winter and lug out all the hurdles before you can begin training, that toughens the mind," he has said.

Pascoe's performances on the track were marked by competitiveness, patient effort and adaptability. Having started out as a sprint hurdler, he followed his rival David Hemery up to the 400m hurdles. It was at that distance that Pascoe had his greatest successes, achieving a time of 48.59sec, which still leaves him third in the UK all-time list behind Kriss Akabusi and Hemery. But Pascoe also struck Olympic silver in 1972 as a member of the 4x400m team which also included Hemery, Martin Reynolds and David Jenkins.

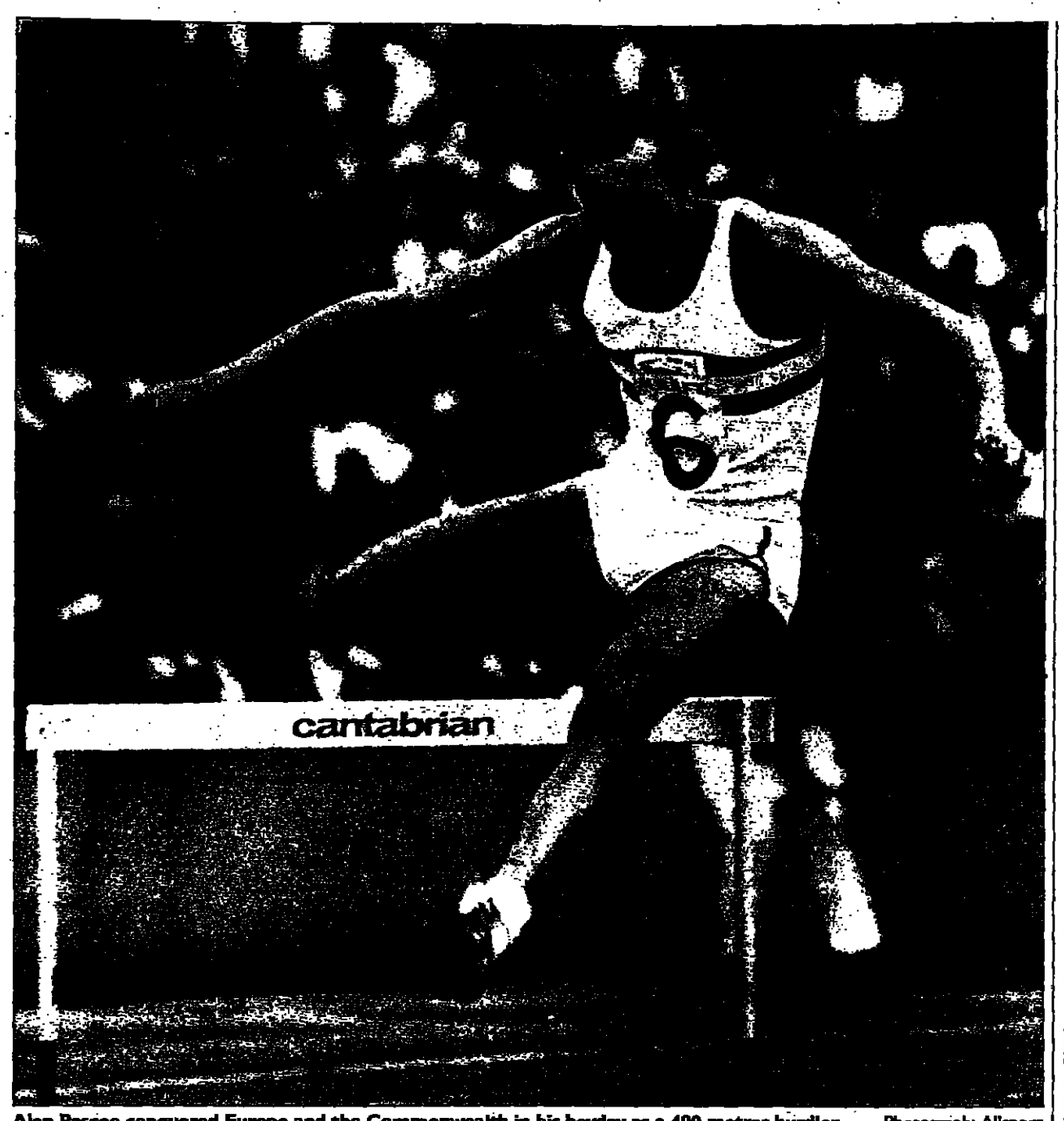
However, the image of Pascoe which remains in many peoples minds is of a man tripping over a hurdle. After his European victory in Rome, an exhausted Pascoe unwisely attempted to hurdle over one of the barriers on his lap of honour. It was facing the wrong way and when he clipped it he was the one to fall over. He tried it once more – to similar effect – before laughingly pushing it over with his hands.

He sees his main task now as reminding people just how successful athletics is in relation to other sports in this country and, in his own phrase, "showcasing" top athletic performers. He believes there is still much more than can be done to liven up domestic athletics and make the events accessible and intelligible to the viewing public.

Among the measures being considered are a reduction of the number of events in each meeting and a profound improvement in the level of information on offer to spectators.

Pascoe also wants to establish a separate identity for each of the five main domestic events, utilising more adventurous measures for the indoor meeting and Grand Prix events, while retaining the traditional strength of the annual AAAs trials.

He guards against wild optimism, however, stressing that it would take several years before these meetings will be watched by sell-out crowds.



Alan Pascoe conquered Europe and the Commonwealth in his heyday as a 400 metres hurdler Photograph: Allsport

Hammond put on list at £150,000

Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

ST HELENS have listed their Great Britain utility player, Karle Hammond, at £150,000 after receiving a written transfer request.

Hammond was angry at being substituted to make way for the return of Keiron Cunningham against Hull on Sunday. Although the club regard him as a key member of the first-team squad and rejected an initial approach from Hull, they have now made him available. The fee they want for Hammond, who played twice for his country in New Zealand in 1996, is described as "non-negotiable".

Saints have agreed to let Dean Busby return to Hull on a month's loan. The England international loose forward moved to Saints in 1995 for £80,000, but his time there has been blighted by injury.

Hull's priority remains finding a scrum-half to replace Glen Tomlinson, who is expected to be out all season with a broken shin.

The Salford coach, Andy Gregory, could be in trouble over remarks alleged to have been addressed to the referee during Sunday's defeat by Sheffield.

Gregory said nothing critical of Steve Ganson's performance after the match, but has been called to a hearing at Rugby League headquarters over comments from the touchline, picked up by both the match video and the fourth official.

The Hull KR coach, Dave Harrison, has also been asked to appear over comments made about the referee, Ronnie Laughton, after last week's defeat by Widnes. Harrison is alleged to have called Laughton "a clown."

The League has ruled that there is no evidence of the St Helens prop, Brett Goldspink, being bitten, as he claimed, in the match against Hull on Sunday. The incident was placed on report, but no action is to be taken against any Hull player.

Bradford have stepped up their search for a prop after losing Warren Jowitt for the season with a knee injury. They have made an informal approach for their former player, the St Helens and Great Britain centre, Paul Newlove, but have been given no encouragement.

Souyave's dangerous gamble

Hockey

By Bill Colwill
In Utrecht

MAGGIE SOUYAVE, the England coach, has shown her boldness by including several talented youngsters in the squad for the World Cup in Utrecht, where England open their programme against India this morning.

No one can doubt the potential of 20-year-old Kirsty Bowden, who has been given the captaincy, or the talent of Jennie Bimson, Fiona Greenham, Kerry Moore and Lucilla Wright. But the squad's lack of experience could be exposed by seven games in 12 days.

England's plans have been disrupted by injuries to the experienced strikers Tina Cullen and Mandy Nicholls, who have been replaced by Sarah Blanks and the defender Lisa Copeland.

England should account for India before facing the Dutch who, along with Korea, are both Atlanta medallists. New Zealand and Argentina complete England's group.

Scotland's group is just as daunting. Their opening game is against Australia, the world and Olympic champions. They then face the United States, South Africa and Germany.

ENGLAND SQUAD: K Bowden (capt), J Mould, P Miller, S Blanks, K Brown, J Smith, L Copeland, H Rose, C Reid, J Empson, M Clewlow, K Moore, L Wright, F Greenham, J Bimson, J Sexsmith.
SCOTLAND SQUAD: S Lawne, T Robb, A Denholm, H Walker, F Pearson, J Jack, S Fraser, C Corcoran, S MacDonald, A Grant, P Robertson (capt), L Burton, R Simpson, D Ramison, V Neil, S Gilmour.

PHILIPS
ECOTONE

Today we publish the final results of The Independent Fantasy Football League. The league table includes final scores after week 40. Neither set of scores includes results from the FA Cup. The overall winner at the end of the season will win a pair of tickets to the World Cup finals in France this summer.

Congratulations to Mr D. Edmondson the manager of Edmo United the winner of the 1997/8 league. The monthly prize goes to Mr S. Bartley the manager of Racing Club Cathays.

You will be notified by phone of your prizes in the near future.

Every time one of your players score you get four points. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e.: if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 bonus point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count.

The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose.

Updated player scores and league tables will be published every Tuesday in The Independent and repeated the following Sunday in the Independent on Sunday.

HOW TO SCORE
player scores 4
clean sheet 4
winning goal 1
successful assist 3
-1 yellow card
-3 red card
manager's team wins 3
draw 1

Independent Fantasy Football

FINAL OVERALL SCORES

LEAGUE TABLE

POS	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
1	Mr David Edmondson	Edmo United	1176
2	Mr John Hayes	Early Birds	1170
3	Mr R Turn	No Wright	1145
3	Mr C King	Seeking Victory	1145
3	Mr Phil Tulfer	Pin Ups 4	1145
3	Mr David Evans	Boothen End Old Boys	1145
3	Mr John Cox	Southville FC	1145
8	Mr David Baker	Deja Vu	1139
9	Mr Ian Boyle	Wembley Bounders	1137
9	Mr A Wingrove	Tony's Boys	1137
9	Mr Tom Lyons	Diana's Demons	1137
12	Mr Abdul Choudi	Nikies 9th 11	1129
12	Mr Mike Ewins	Mikes C Team	1129
14	Mr Martin Pawly	Roberts Raider's	1126
15	Mr D Sari	The Untouchables	1122
15	Mr David Aston	Billy's Boys 2nd 11	1122
17	Mr B Sari	Simply The Best	1121
17	Mr Tony Brazier	Wow For Short	1121
19	Mr Mike Ewins	I've Started But Will I Finish	1119
19	Mr Mike Ewins	Mikes A Team	1119
19	Mr A Mitchell	The Eye For It	1119
19	Mr Stewart Scott	Unbeatable	1119
23	Mr Giles Bell	The Hairy Monsters	1118
24	Mr Stewart Scott	The Dream Team	1115
25	Mr Mike Ewins	Mikes B Team	1111
26	Mr Steven Man	Rebecca Rovers	1110
27	Mr Nigel Peat	Tim's Tigers	1108
28	Mr Ian Boyle	Clogston Rovers	1107
29	Mr Peter Cridland	PDC2	1105
30	Mr Stewart Scott	Reading	1104
31	Miss Lisa Wild	Amerretto FC	1103
32	Mr Ian Brown	The Hoofers	1101
33	Mr David Ackroyd	Jacks Lads	1100
33	Mr William Barr	Brookes Rangers	1100
35	Mr Robert Pringle	Dead Out Rangers	1099
36	Mr David Aston	Billy's Boys 3rd 11	1098
37	Mr Jonathon McCrossan	Washed Up Army	1097
38	Mr D Deper	Quick Start	1096
38	Mr A Mitchell	Nursery Park Rangers	1096
40	Mr Phil Tufler	Pin Ups 2	1095

GOALKEEPERS

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WK	GS	VALUE (£m)
301	Seaman	ARS	1	82	4.0
303	Lukic	ARS	0	0	1.0
304	Manninger	ARS	1	31	3.0
305	Bosnich	AV	5	65	4.0
306	Oakes	AV	0	8	1.5
307	Watson	BAR	1	50	1.0
308	Lesse	BAR	0	12	1.0
309	Flowers	BLA	5	57	5.2
330	Filan	BLA	0	23	1.5
333	Branagan	BOL	1	74	1.2
334	De Goey	CHE	5	76	1.0
335	Grodas	TOT	0	0	1.0
336	Ogrizovic	COV	0	52	2.2
337	Hedman	COV	1	38	1.0
338	Nash	CRY	0	0	1.0
339	Day	CRY	0	0	1.0
340	Poom	DER	5	89	1.2
343	Hoult	DER	0	2	1.6
344	Southall	EVE	0	34	3.0
345	Gerrard	EVE	0	4	1.5
346	Martyn	LEE	2	81	3.3
347	Beeney	LEE	0	1	1.2
348	Keller	LEI	1	86	2.5
349	Poole	LEI	0	0	1.5
350	James	LIV	11	70	3.5
353	Warner	LIV	0	0	1.0
354	Schmeichel	MAN	0	96	5.5
355	Van Der Gouw	MAN	10	16	1.2
356	Given	NEW	1	55	2.5
357	Hislop	NEW	0	21	2.5
358	Pressman	SHEF	1	68	3.0
359	Taylor	SOU	0	0	1.0
360	Beasant	SOU	0	0	1.0
363	Walker	TOT	1	57	3.4
364	Bardsen	TOT	0	21	1.0
365	Miklosko	WH	0	13	1.5
366	Sullivan	WIM	1	93	2.7

DEFENDERS

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WK	GS	VALUE (£m)
400	Dixon	ARS	1	85	2.5
403	Upson	ARS	1	17	2.0
404	Petit	ARS	1	119	4.2
405	Grimandi	ARS	1	51	2.7
406	Winterburn	ARS	1	112	2.5
407	Bould	ARS	1	54	2.5
408	Adams	ARS	1	99	4.5
409	Keown	ARS	1	54	4.5
430	Staunton	AV	0	59	3.0
433	Southgate	AV	5	65	5.2
434	Ehiogu	AV	1	78	3.0
435	Nelson	AV	5	55	1.2
436	Wright	AV	5	76	3.0
437	Scimeca	AV	0	32	2.2
438	Grayson	AV	5	65	2.5
439	Moses	BAR	1	45	1.5
440	Appleby	BAR	1	19	2.0
443	Thompson	BAR	0	6	1.0
444	Krizan	BAR	0	14	1.0
445	Berg	MAN	5	76	3.4
446	Le Saux	CHE	0	72	5.0
447	Coleman	BLA	0	0	3.0
448	Hendry	BLA	4	79	4.4
449	Kenna	BLA	5	92	3.9
450	Henchoz	BLA	4	86	2.0
453	Valery	BLA	0	32	3.0
454	Anderson	BLA	0	9	2.5
455	Cox	BOL	0	37	2.5
456	Elliott	BOL	0	12	3.0
457	Fairclough	BOL	0	8	2.0
458	Taggart	BOL	1	22	2.5
459	Bergsson	BOL	1	70	1.5
460	Doherty	CHE	0	56	3.0
463	Petrescu	CHE	5	105	3.0
464	Lambourde	CHE	0	3	3.0
465	Leboeuf	CHE	4	99	5.0
466	Sinclair	CHE	0	53	2.5
467	Dalsh	COV	0	0	2.7
468	Shaw	COV	1	71	2.2
469	Burrows	COV	4	77	2.2
470	Howarth	COV	0	15	1.5
473	Edworthy	CRY	6	48	1.5
474	Gordon	CRY	9	74	2.0
475	Muscat	CRY	0	14	1.0
476	Tittle	CRY	0	12	2.0
477	Linighan	CRY	5	49	2.0
478	Roberts	WIM	1	84	3.0
479	Hendresson	CRY	5	46	1.0
480	Skinner	DER	0	52	3.3
483	C Powell	DER	5	90	1.8
484	Laursen	DER	5	58	1.5
485	Eranio	DER	0	72	2.5
486	Phelan	EVE	0	10	1.9
487	Short	EVE	1	62	3.0
488	Watson	EVE	1	55	2.7
489	Unsworth	WH	2	68	3.0
490	Hinchcliffe	SHEF	1	71	3.5
493	Bilic	EVE	0	20	4.0
494	Kelly	LEE	2	88	3.6
495	Wetherall	LEE	1	82	2.5
496	Mcdonald	LEE	0	49	2.5
497	Dongo	LEE	0	0	1.2
498	Robertson	LEE	0	53	2.5
499	Walsh	LEI	0	81	2.5
500	Whitlow	BOL	0	29	1.2
503	Elliott	LEI	0	127	1.2
504	Watts	LEI	0	0	1.6
505	Wright	LIV	0	10	3.0
506	Ruddock	LIV	0	2	3.0
507	Harkness	LIV	5	61	1.2
508	Kvarme	LIV	1	50	2.5
509	Bjornebye	LIV	6	65	2.5
530	Matteo	LIV	0	57	3.0
533	McAteer	LIV	5	66	3.7
534	G Neville	MAN	8	108	4.2
535	P Neville	MAN	3	85	4.2
536	Irwin	MAN	9	84	2.5
537	Pallister	MAN	4	99	3.0
538	May	MAN	9	20	3.5
539	Johnsen	MAN	0	60	3.5
540	Silva	MAN	0	0	3.5
543	Albert	NEW	1	47	4.1
544	Howey	NEW	0	35	3.7
545	Peacock	NEW	0	31	3.0
546	Barton	NEW	0	54	3.5
547	Beresford	SOU	1	60	2.2
548	Blondeau	SHEF	0	8	2.2
549	Nolan	SHEF	0	60	1.9
550	Atherton	SHEF	1	63	1.9
553	Walker	SHEF	1	70	2.5
554	Stefanovic	SHEF	1	32	1.6
555	Newsome	SHEF	0	63	1.5
556	Monkou	SOU	0	52	1.7
557	Dodd	SOU	1	81	2.5
558	Benali	SOU	1	61	1.5
559	Van Gobbel	SOU	0	1	1.5
560	Lundekvam	SOU	1	47	1.2
563	Scales	TOT	0	21	3.4
564	Campbell	TOT	0	68	4.0
565	Calderwood	TOT	1	60	2.9
566	Austin	TOT	0	0	2.2
567	Edinburgh	TOT	0	19	1.6
568	Carr	TOT	1	74	1.2
569	Mabbutt	TOT	0	19	1.5
570	Dicks	WH	0	0	3.5
573	Ripper	WH	0	12	2.7
574	Hall	WH	0	0	3.0
575	Potts	WH	0	40	1.5
576	Ferdinand	WH	1	60	2.5
577	Impey	WH	1	42	2.2
578	Turner	WH	0	0	2.0
579	Perry	WIM	1	83	4.0
580	Cunningham	WIM	0	79	1.5
583	Thatcher	WIM	1	51	2.0
584	McAllister	WIM	1	7	1.5
585	Kimble	WIM	4	58	1.5

MIDFIELDERS

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WK	GS	VALUE (£m)
00	Platt	ARS	1	29	2.5
603	Parlour	ARS	2	52	2.4
604	Pereira	ARS	0	0	2.7
605	Vieira	ARS	0	34	4.5
606	Overmars	ARS	1	94	6.0
607	Mendez Rodriguez	ARS	0	1	2.0
608	Taylor	AV	0	53	1.9
609	Townsend	AV	0	3	3.2
630	Draper	AV	0	48	4.1
633	Mutzelle	BAR	0	12	2.0
634	Bullock	BAR	1	31	1.2
635	Redfearn	BAR	1	82	1.5
636	Easden	BAR	0	32	1.2
637	Tinkler	BAR	0	24	1.0
638	Dorns	BLA	0	0	3.0
639	Wilcox	BLA	1	41	3.0
640	McKinlay	BLA	1	18	2.2
643	Sherwood	BLA	0	52	3.4
644	Flitcroft	BLA	1	34	3.0
645	Frandsen	BOL	0	51	1.5
646	Thompson	BOL	1	78	2.8
647	Pollock	BOL	0	27	1.2
648	Sellars	BOL	0	38	1.5
649	Gallit	CHE	0	0	4.4
650	Di Matteo	CHE	0	50	5.0
653	Wise	CHE	1	34	3.7
654	Newton	CHE	1	15	2.4
655	P Hughes	CHE	0	7	3.0
656	Beharyan	CHE	0	7	3.0
657	Telfer	COV	1	42	1.6
658	Richardson	SOU	0	29	2.4
659	McAllister	COV	0	17	3.0
660	Salako	BOL	0	10	2.4
663	Johnsen	COV	0	0	2.0
664	Simpson	DER	0	1	1.2
665	Akanowic	DER	0	9	3.0
666	D Powell	DER	0	7	1.2
667	Van Der Laan	DER	0	11	1.6
668	Dailly	DER	1	29	1.2
669	Hunt	DER	0	8	2.0
670	Parkinson	EVE	0	0	1.8
673	Grant	EVE	0	14	2.2
674	Farrelly	EVE	5	18	2.0
675	Stuart	EVE	0	36	2.5
676	Speed	NEW	1	62	2.7
677	Brower	LEE	2	41	3.0
678	Wallace	LEE	1	80	1.8
679	Sharpe	LEE	0	0	3.5
680	Ribeiro	LEE	0	47	1.5
683	Haaland	LEE	6	44	2.5
684	Parker	LEI	0	33	2.5
685	Taylor	LEI	0	9	1.6
686	Izzet	LEI	1	59	2.1
687	Lennon	LEI	1	42	3.2
688	Guppy	LEI	0	68	1.7
689	Barnes	NEW	1	48	3.0
690	Redknapp	LIV	0	38	5.2
693	McManaman	LIV	1	109	5.9
694	Thomas	LIV	1	13	3.0
695	Lombardseen	LIV	5	56	4.0
696	Giggs	MAN	6	81	7.4
697	Beckham	MAN	5	98	7.0
698	Keane	MAN	0	14	7.0
699	Butt	MAN	5	42	7.0
700	Poborski	MAN	0	10	3.5
703	Lee	NEW	0	45	3.6
704	Batty	NEW	-2	18	3.3
705	Gillespie	NEW	0	44	2.5
706	Bazeley	BOL	0	21	2.0
707	Ketsbaia	NEW	1	34	2.0
708	Blinker	SHEF	0	0	2.5
709	Hyde	SHEF	1	10	1.8
730	Whittingham	SHEF	0	41	1.7
733	Carbone	SHEF	1	72	3.0
734	Magilton	SHEF	0	20	2.4
735	Slater	SOU	0	2	1.5
736	Oakley	SOU	1	34	1.2
737	Anderton	TOT	1	10	6.0
738	Fox	TOT	1	60	3.5
739	Howells	TOT	0	11	3.2
740	Ginola	TOT	1	76	3.5
743	Sinton	TOT	0	19	3.0
744	Nielsen	TOT	1	36	3.5
745	Williamson	EVE	0	13	2.0
746	Mi Hughes	WIM	0	40	2.0
747	Moncur	WH	0	15	2.5
748	Bishop	WH	0	3	2.5
749	Berkovic	WH	5	82	2.5
750	Lomas	WH	4	38	3.0
753	Jones	WIM	0	21	2.5
754	Earle	WIM	0	36	3.1
755	Ardley	WIM	1	48	2.0
756	Fear	WIM	1	11	2.0
757	C Hughes	WIM	0	16	2.0

STRIKERS

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WK	GS	VALUE (£m)
800	Bergkamp	ARS	0	116	7.5
803	Wright	ARS	1	63	7.2
804	Boaventre Pereira	ARS	0	1	2.0
805	Yorke	AV	6	84	6.7
806	Joachim	AV	1	59	2.4
807	Collymore	AV	0	57	8.1
808	Wilkinson	BAR	0	6	1.2
809	Hendrie	BAR	0	11	1.5
810	Hristow	BAR	1	22	1.5
833	Sutton	BLA	6	116	4.5
834	Gallacher	BLA	1	112	3.0
835	Dublin	BLA	-1	25	4.0
836	McGinley	BOL	0	3	2.2
837	Hulme	BOL	1	92	2.7
838	Zola	CHE	0	69	9.0
839	Vialli	CHE	4	66	8.5
840	Ma Hughes	CHE	1	62	4.4
843	Tore Andre Flo	CHE	1	66	3.0
844	Dublin	COV	5	126	3.5
845	Whelan	COV	1	47	3.0
846	Huckerby	COV	0	96	3.5
847	Soltvedt	COV	1	34	1.5
848	Lightbourne	COV	0	0	1.5
849	Dyer	CRY	0	37	2.0
850	Freedman	CRY	0	2	2.0
853	Ndah	CRY	0	3	1.0
854	Shipperley	CRY	2	49	2.0
855	Ward	BAR	1	65	2.5
856	Sturridge	DER	1	62	5.0
857	Wanchope	DER	6	86	3.0
858	Ferguson	EVE	4	78	6.5
859	Barmby	EVE	1	42	4.5
860	Deane	LEE	0	0	3.0
863	Lilley	LEE	0	8	1.5
864	Hasselbank	LEE	2	102	3.0
865	Claridge	LEI	0	10	3.5
866	Heskey	LEI	11	86	5.5
867	Fowler	LIV	0	59	9.5
868	Berger	LIV	1	21	4.0
869	Owen	LIV	11	129	2.5
870	Scholes	MAN	1	66	6.0
873	Cole	MAN	6	106	6.2
874	Solskjaer	MAN	0	48	7.0
875	Sheringham	MAN	6	76	5.0
876	Neville	MAN	0	0	2.0
877	Shearer	NEW	1	25	10.0
878	Asprilla	NEW	0	20	7.4
879	Ferdinand	TOT	4	49	5.0
880	Tomasson	NEW	0	31	4.0
883	Gudjonsson	NEW	0	0	2.0
884	Humphreys	SHEF	0	2	2.5
885	Bresh	SHEF	0	52	3.5
886	Hirst	SOU	1	76	3.5
887	Le Tissier	SOU	5	98	7.0
888	Evans	SOU	0	6	1.5
889	Ostenstad	SOU	1	69	3.2
890	Armstrong	TOT	0	31	5.0
893	Iversen	TOT	0	7	4.0
894	Hartson	WH	0	103	5.0
895	Kitson	WH	1	39	3.5
896	Holdsworth	BOL	0	27	3.5
897	Ekoku	WIM	4	30	4.0
898	Gayle	WIM	0	32	4.0
899	Ekeli	WIM	1	29	1.5

MANAGERS

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WK	GS	VALUE (£m)
900	Wenger	ARS	0	78	7.5
903	Little*	AV	0	30	5.0
904	Wilson	BAR	0	35	2.0
905	Hodgson	BLA	3	58	5.0
906	Gold	BOL	0	40	2.5
907	Gullit*	CHE	0	45	4.5
908	Strachan	COV	1	52	3.0
909	Coppell*	CRY	0	23	2.0
930	Smith	DER	3	55	2.0
933	Kendall	EVE	1	40	2.5
934	Graham	LEE	1	59	3.5
935	O'Neill	LEI	0	53	4.5
936	Evans	LIV	3	65	7.0
937	Ferguson	MAN	6	77	9.0
938	Dalglish	NEW	0	44	7.0
939	Pleat*	SHEF	0	9	4.0
940	Jones	SOU	1	48	2.5
943	Francis*	TOT	0	13	4.5
944	Redknapp	WH	4	56	3.3
945	Kinnear	WIM	1	44	4.5

*currently out of management

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A Derby dream runs out of puff

By Richard Edmondson
at Goodwood

THEY say, quite unfairly, that the Predominate Stakes is a poor guide to the Derby. For since Troy won here in 1979 on the way to the Blue Riband it has become one of the most definitive pointers to Epsom in the calendar. Anything that runs in the race has got absolutely no chance on the Surrey Downs two weeks later.

This consistency was maintained yesterday when Rabah, Hamdan Al Maktoum's second string, won the Listed contest, beating his owner's better-fancied runner, Mutamam, into second place. Rabah's prospects at Epsom are compromised by the fact that he will not run in the race. Mutamam might.

The latter should have reappeared in the Newmarket race won by Dr Fong (in which Rabah finished last) but he bruised a heel at exercise. From then on Mutamam was on a crammer as he cantered morning and night, and it was clear yesterday he had not spent enough time under a blanket with his torch.

Mutamam did all the childish things you expect from a horse making his three-year-old debut. He pulled, he hung and he changed legs, and, by the time he got the idea, Rabah had flown for a half-length victory.

Afterwards, Mutamam exhibited the distress of the unfit. If the big, bad wolf had puffed like he did, all three little piggies would have been out on the street. "He's blowing more than any horse I've run this year, but it was disappointing all the same because, to be quite frank, if you're going to run a horse in the Derby you want to see a bit fitter than that," Alec Stewart, the trainer, said.

Rabah was probably feeling the exertion as well as his jockey, Pat Eddery, was suspended for three days for using the whip with excessive frequency. Richard Hills was even naughtier in the following contest and banned for five days for irresponsible riding aboard Volley.

Rabah's yard is likely to be represented in the Blue Riband by Haami, the 2,000 Guineas fifth, beaten two and three-quarter lengths by King Of Kings. Haami has some fast relatives and the main concern is his ability to last out 12 furlongs. "It's awfully difficult to tell whether he'll get a mile and a half but he showed in the 2,000 Guineas that he has got serious Classic speed," John Dunlop said of the horse who is 12-1 for Epsom with William Hill. "If you've got a good horse, they're probably good horses over six furlongs at two and, hopefully, over a mile and half at three.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Amber Fort
(Goodwood 4.10)
NB: Rhapsodist
(Goodwood 4.45)

"He looked a real threat at the furlong marker [in the Guineas] and then ran on a little one-paced. But over a mile and a half it might be different because he might hold his position and use his serious Classic speed. There is only one way to find out, and that's at Epsom."

Others to make their way into the Derby pending tray yesterday were Courteous and Second Empire. The former, the winner of the Sandown Trial, may now be switched from Chantilly to Epsom and is quoted at 25-1 with William Hill.

Second Empire was the Derby favourite until he damaged muscles and has been slow to recover. However, he impressed at work yesterday and may even contest Saturday's Irish 2,000 Guineas at the Curragh.

Rabah holds off Mutamam in yesterday's Predominate Stakes at Goodwood Photograph: Julian Herbert/Allsport

It could be a good weekend for Aidan O'Brien's local burglar to get his sack out as all Ballydoyle seems to be on its way to the races. The wunderkind has six of the 15 runners in the colts' Classic including King Of Kings, though both he and Second Empire are not certain runners. O'Brien also has five entries in Sunday's Irish 1,000.

The Newmarket winner Fa-Eq has been supplemented by Godolphin for Saturday, when Britain's most potent challenger may be the French 2,000 winner, Victory Note. His trainer, Peter Chapple-Hyam, has won the race three times in six years and what he saw on the gallops yesterday persuaded him that his percentage may improve further.

Results, page 31

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

GOODWOOD

2.40: Kieren Fallon can be relied upon to get the best from SILVERING. This looks an especially tricky contest, though.

□□□

3.10: Another Fantasy was a 100-1 shot in the 1,000 Guineas but was certainly not disgraced, finishing 7th of 16 runners. MONDSCHEIN took on less exalted opposition when winning at Sandown in April but can improve enough to beat the Richard Hannon filly. Putuna seemed unsuited by the track when stone last of six in the Oaks trial won by Bristol Channel at Lingfield (1m 3f) last time. She may leave that form well behind today. A lot of horses become unbalanced on this switchback course, a factor contributing to two "winners" being disqualified here yesterday. Off-course punters would be particularly wise to seek out independent bookmakers who pay out on first-past-the-post and the official result.

□□□

3.40: Raise A Prince is the bet on the basis of form allied to proven fitness. Sean Woods's five-year-old must be feared after excellent performances at Newmarket this season. He steps up in trip after two runs at 12 furlongs. In contrast, State Fair and WAKEEL drop down in distance by more than half a mile after finishing in midfield in the 23-runner Chester Cup. The latter ran much better than his final position that day would indicate.

Goodwood 2.40

Horse	C	H	L	S	T
Oggi	11-4	10-3	10-3	3-1	7-2
Silvering	3-1	11-4	10-3	10-3	7-2
Repertory	4-1	4-1	4-1	4-1	4-1
Stand Tall	9-2	7-2	3-1	7-2	3-1
Triple Hay	7-1	15-2	7-1	7-1	13-2
Montendre	15-2	15-2	8-1	7-1	7-1
Smooth Sailing	20-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1

Each way, a quarter the odds, places 1, 2
C Coral, H Wm Hill, L Ladbrokes, S Stanley, T Tote

Goodwood 3.10

Horse	S	T
Mondschein	9-4	11-4
Another Fantasy	100-30	7-2
Enchant	3-1	7-2
Putuna	11-2	5-1
Andalish	12-1	13-2
Forum	10-1	14-1
Napoleon's Sister	16-1	10-1
Flush	25-1	25-1

Each way, a fifth the odds, places 1, 2, 3

Goodwood

HYPERION
2.10 Beraysim (nb) 2.40 Silvering 3.10 MONDSCHEIN (nap) 3.40 Wakeel 4.10 Asef Alhind 4.45 Royal Origine

GOING: Good to Firm.
STALLS: Straight – stands side; round course – inside (except 1m 4f – outside).
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best for 7f to 1m 2f.
● Right-hand course with sharp bends and gradients.
● Course is N of Chichester between A286 and A285. Chichester station (London Victoria) is 4m. ADMISSION: Richmond Enclosure £17, Gordon Enclosure £10 (over-65s £5), Public Enclosure £5 (over 65s £3). CAR PARK: £2; free parking available.
● LEADING TRAINERS: P Cole 29 winners from 131 races (success rate 22.1%), R Hannon 28-298 (9.4%), J Gosden 21-117 (17.9%), M Stoute 20-84 (23.8%).
● LEADING JOCKEYS: T Quinn 40 winners from 248 rides (success rate 16.1%), Pat Eddery 34-182 (18.7%), J Reid 32-229 (14%), R Cochrane 18-125 (14.4%).
FAVOURITES: 205 wins from 604 races (33.9%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: State Fair (3.40), Wellaki (visored, 4.10).

2.10 METSA-SERLA PAPERBOARD MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £7,000 added 3YO fillies 7f

1 2 BERAYSIM (19) (Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum) M Jarvis 8 11 ....P Robinson 14
2 0-0 CELEBRATION (18) (The Queen) I Balding 8 11 ....W R Swinburn 8
3 CORNFLOWER FIELDS (Salem Suhail) R Hannon 8 11 ....R Hughes 2
4 224-03 DODO (7) (Exors of late Commander G G Marten) D Elsworth 8 11 ....Paul Eddery 13
5 5 ELA-ANDROULLA (12) (Mrs Andry Muinos) G Lewis 8 11 ....T Sprake 9
6 4 GALINGAL (USA) (10) (K Abdullah) R Charlton 8 11 ....Dane O'Neill 6
7 0 GARBO (17) (Nimrod Company) R Hannon 8 11 ....D Harrison 1
8 60025- JUSTCHILLIN' (208) (M A Scaife) C Dwyer 8 11 ....R Hills 7
9 4 KARIYH (USA) (19) (BF) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 8 11 ....N Pollard (7) 5
10 0- QUEEN'S HAT (314) (Abdullah Ali) B Hanbury 8 11 ....W Ryan 11
11 30- ROISIN SPLENDOUR (305) (Brighthelm Racing) S Dow 8 11 ....M Tebbutt 4
12 SOVIET GIRL (F C T Wilson) B Meehan 8 11 ....T Quinn 10
13 40- STAR OF THE COURSE (USA) (258) (M Arbib) P Cole 8 11 ....S Sanders 12
14 2-2 SWING ALONG (19) (W G Bovill) C Wall 8 11 ....
– 14 declared –
BETTING: 6-4 Kariyh, 5-1 Swing Along, 11-2 Beraysim, 8-1 Dodo, 10-1 Galingal, 12-1 Star Of The Course, 14-1 Ela-Androulla, 20-1 Celebration, 25-1 others
1997: St Radegund 8 11 M Hills 3-1 fav (G Wragg) drawn (3) 15 ran

FORM GUIDE
Beraysim made headway over 2f out, challenged over 1f out, not pace of winner, when second of 16 runners, 3 lengths behind Digitalize at Newmarket (7f, good to soft) 19 days ago. She had KARIYH behind him that day: John Dunlop's filly going into many notebooks when running green before making eye-catching late ground to be 4th, 6 lengths behind Digitalize. Swing Along ran on the same card, in another division of the same race, running on to be second, 2nd of 15, a neck behind Jinsiyah. Celebration had every chance before finishing last of 13, 18 lengths behind Bride's Answer at Kempton (1m, good). Dodo started slowly before taking 3rd place in a 7-runner field, 5 lengths behind Zelah at Lingfield (7f, good to firm). Ela-Androulla will be better for the experience after reaching 5th place of 11, 8 lengths behind Selfish at Lingfield (7f, good). Star Of The Course was prominent stands side over 3f, before finishing last of 14, 28 lengths behind Flawless at Salisbury (7f, good to soft) in September.
Selection: KARIYH.

2.40 DOUBLEPRINT HANDICAP (CLASS C) £10,000 added 6f — BBC1

RATINGS
1 10004- TRIPLE HAY (229) (D) (Broadgate Pshp) R Hannon 4 9 12 ....P Dobbs (7) 1 95
2 44530- OGGI (242) (CD) (BF) (Skyline Racing) P Makin 7 9 9 ....R Cochrane 6 97
3 0464-2 REPERTORY (10) (M S Saunders) M Saunders 5 9 8 ....R Hughes 7 96
4 0-4500 SILVERING (FR) (13) (David Caddy) M Meade 6 9 1 ....K Fallon 4 104
5 1021- STAND TALL (234) (D) (Chris Hardy) Lady Herries 6 8 11 ....Paul Eddery 5 99
6 100-10 MONTENDRE (10) (D) (David Mort) R Hodges 11 8 8 ....J Reid 3 84
7 -00060 SMOOTH SAILING (9) (A R Parrish) K McAuliffe 3 7 13 ....J F Egan 2 89
– 7 declared –
BETTING: 3-1 Oggi, 100-30 Silvering, 4-1 Repertory, Stand Tall, 7-1 Triple Hay, 15-2 Montendre, 25-1 Smooth Sailing
1997: Oggi 6 9 0 R Cochrane 11-1 (P Makin) drawn (6) 19 ran

FORM GUIDE
Triple Hay has a fine chance if he can take advantage of his stands side draw. On his final run last season he was nearest at the finish, 4th of 13, 3 lengths behind Muslim at Newmarket (7f, good to firm) in October. Oggi made headway stands side 2f out, hard ridden and never able to challenge, 9th of 29, 4 lengths behind Wildwood Flower at Ayr (6f, good to soft) in September. Repertory ran on inside the final furlong, 2nd of 18, three quarters of a length behind Divine Miss-P at Bath (5f, good) 10 days ago. Silvering was switched left, finished well, 7th of 18, 3½ lengths behind Star Invader at Chester (1m, good to firm). STAND TALL was ridden to lead on the post at Nottingham (6f, good) in September beating Mallia by a short-head in a field of 18.
Selection: STAND TALL.

3.10 TRIPLEPRINT LUPE STAKES (Listed) (CLASS A) £25,000 added 3YO 1m 2f — BBC1

1 0- ANDALISH (253) (K Abdullah) B Hills 8 8 ....D Holland 4 68
2 051-40 ANOTHER FANTASY (17) (Mr & Mrs P Jubert) R Hannon 8 8 ....Dane O'Neill 6 109
3 6-1 ENCHANT (14) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 8 8 ....W R Swinburn 3 93
4 005-3 FLUSH (FR) (10) (G Lowe; The Losers Owners Group) J Hills 8 8 ....M Hills 8 89
5 341-60 FORUM (17) (Wyck Hall Stud) C Brittain 8 8 ....J Reid 2 95
6 02-1 MONDSCHEIN (26) (D) (Benny Andersson) J Dunlop 8 8 ....Pat Eddery 1 101
7 5 NAPOLEON'S SISTER (10) (Mrs Anne Coughlan) D Elsworth 8 8 ....K Fallon 7 81
8 33-16 PUTUNA (11) (Robert Hitchins) I Balding 8 8 ....M Roberts 5 86
– 8 declared –
BETTING: 5-2 Mondschein, 100-30 Enchant, 7-2 Another Fantasy, 11-2 Putuna, 8-1 Andalish, 12-1 Forum, 14-1 Napoleon's Sister, 25-1 Flush
1997: Maid Of Camelot 8 8 T Sprake 10-1 (R Charlton) drawn (8) 7 ran

FORM GUIDE
Andalish raced alone far side, ridden over 2f out, eased when beaten over 1f out, 13th of 16, 15 lengths behind Vocation at Lingfield (7f, good) in September. ANOTHER FANTASY effort over 3f out, stayed on same pace, 7th of 16, 24 lengths behind Cape Verdi at Newmarket (1m, good) in the 1000 Guineas. Forum was always in rear, 12th of 16, 36 lengths behind Cape Verdi. Enchant ran on gamely to lead close home, wo at Chester (7f, good) beating Aloha Dancer by a hd, 8 ran. Flush led over 5f, every chance 1f out, not quicken, 3rd of 8, 1½ lengths behind Yanabi at Bath (1m, good). In the same race, Napoleon's Sister finished 5th of 8, 4 lengths behind Yanabi. Mondschein led over 8f out to 2f out, led 1f out, ridden out, won at Sandown (1m 2f, soft) in April beating Akarita by 3 lengths, 6 ran. Putuna pulled hard, held up, ridden over 3f out, one pace, last of 6, 25 lengths behind Bristol Channel at Lingfield (1m 3f, good).
Selection: ANOTHER FANTASY

3.40 ABN AMRO RATED HANDICAP (CLASS B) £15,000 added 1m 6f — BBC1

1 /10-0 PERFECT PARADIGM (32) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 4 9 7 ....Pat Eddery 1 100
2 54013- BENATOM (JHB) (CD) (BF) (Lordship Stud) D Elsworth 5 8 13 ....K Fallon 5 108
3 114-12 RAISE A PRINCE (FR) (17) (BF) (George Tong) S Woods 5 8 9 ....N Day 3 101
4 1132- MAWARED (201) (D) (BF) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 5 8 9 ....R Hills 6 105
5 02R/0 HENRY ISLAND (35) (H H Morriss) G Wragg 5 8 8 ....M Hills 7 101
6 02-540 STATE FAIR (14) (Ray Richards) B Hills 4 8 6 ....D Holland 2 B 109
7 520-20 WAKEEL (USA) (14) (M Chavoush) M Pitman 6 8 4 ....T Quinn 4 95
– 7 declared –
BETTING: 5-2 Mawared, 11-4 Benatom, 7-2 Raise A Prince, 13-2 Perfect Paradigm, 7-1 State Fair, 15-2 Wakeel, 25-1 Henry Island
1997: Jiyush 4 9 7 R Hills 11-1 (E Dunlop) drawn (7) 9 ran

FORM GUIDE
Perfect Paradigm led over 2f, ridden over 3f out, weakened over 2f out, 7th of 12, 24 lengths behind Posidonas at Newbury (1m 4f, heavy) in April. Benatom made headway over 3f out, unable to quicken, 3rd of 13, 6 lengths behind Media Star at Goodwood (1m 6f, good to firm) last July. Has not raced on the Flat since, but had four runs over hurdles during the winter, failing to get his head in front but running creditably. RAISE A PRINCE kept on well towards the finish, 2nd of 11, 1 length behind Arctic Owl at Newmarket (1m 4f, good) last time. Mawared challenged on the bit 3f out, ridden over 1f out, no extra, 2nd of 4, ½ length behind Lady Of The Lake at Newmarket (2m, good to firm) in October. Henry Island weakened quickly 5f out, tailed off, 20th of 21, behind Raise A Prince at Newmarket (1m 4f, in April). State Fair weakened 4f out, 10th of 18, 16 lengths behind Silence In Court at Chester (2m 3f, good). In that same contest, Wakeel was forced to made up ground on the wide outside before fading 1½ furlongs out to be 9th of 18, 10 lengths behind Silence In Court.
Selection: RAISE A PRINCE

4.10 NPI RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT HANDICAP (CLASS D) £7,500 added 1m

1 0036-0 ASEF ALHIND (16) (D) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) B Hanbury 4 10 0 ....R Hills 13
2 3000-0 RAKIS (77) (P G Shorrock) Mrs L Stubbs 8 9 12 ....Pat Eddery 7
3 4031-2 WILD SKY (54) (Gold Partnership) M Heaton-Ellis 4 9 11 ....A Clark 12
4 0031-0 AMBER FORT (10) (C) (Caledonian Racing) D Elsworth 5 9 10 ....N Pollard (7) 17
5 0100-0 SMART KID (10) (HRH Sultan Ahmad Shah) Miss G Kelleway 4 9 9 ....K Fallon 4
6 50-000 WELLAKI (USA) (19) (D) (C T S Racing Partnership) J Gosden 4 9 8 ....W Ryan 11 V
7 000-16 GEE BEE DREAM (13) (Grant & Bowman Ltd) A Jarvis 4 9 7 ....D Sweeney (3) 5
8 160-00 INTERDREAM (10) (C Farr & M Heaton) R Hannon 4 9 6 ....Dane O'Neill 1
9 282025 STOPPES BROW (15) (C) (C J Pennick) G L Moore 6 9 1 ....W R Swinburn 15 B
10 00-035 KNOBBLEENEEZE (5) (C) (D) (A Andrews) M Channon 8 8 11 ....T Quinn 2
11 3200-0 ZURS (32) (D) (Glendale Partnership Ltd) J R Poulton 5 8 9 ....R Cochrane 9
12 0P12- IL DESTINO (181) (Skyline Racing Ltd) P Makin 3 8 5 ....M Roberts 14
13 6000-0 BAROSSA VALLEY (29) (Christopher W Wilson) P Butler 7 8 3 ....S Drowne 8
14 06000- NORDINEX (J74) (D) (J Wotherspoon) P Hayward 6 8 2 ....A McGlone 3
15 00-025 CARLTON (20) (BF) (City Slickers) G Lewis 4 8 0 ....R Mullen (3) 10
16 /0500- WARREN KNIGHT (265) (Mrs B Sumner) C Horgan 5 7 10 ....A McCarthy (3) 16
17 11300 WITHOUT FRIENDS (7) (C) (D) (Mrs D Hunnisett) J Pitch-Hayes 4 7 10 ....R French 6
– 17 declared –
Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: Warren Knight 7st 8lb, Without Friends 7st 4lb.
BETTING: 7-1 Wild Sky, 15-2 Stoppes Brow, 8-1 Amber Fort, 9-1 Wellaki, 10-1 Gee Bee Dream, 11-1 Knobbleeneeze, 12-1 Rakis, Smart Kid, 14-1 Asef Alhind, Interdream, Il Destino, 16-1 Carlton, 20-1 Zurs, 25-1 others
1997: Hurtleberry 4 9 6 L Dettori 7-1 (Lord Huntingdon) drawn (9) 17 ran

FORM GUIDE
Asef Alhind represents a stable with a good strike-rate following a slow start to the season. This colt performed creditably on fast ground last season and, although burdened with top weight here, can be expected to figure prominently from a handy draw near the rails. Last time out, he raced wide in the back straight, eventually 10th of 16, 9 lengths behind Tertium in a competitive handicap at Kempton (1m, good). Wild Sky, from a stable running into form, was one paced close home when second of 24 runners, under three lengths behind winner Mozambique at Doncaster (1m, good to soft) in March. Amber Fort was a never nearer 9th of 17, 7 lengths behind Virtual Reality at Bath (1m, good). Neil Pollard's mount has not always been an easy ride but this course winner will be helped by a favourable draw. WELLAKI weakened over 1f out, 12th of 24, 11 lengths behind Carlys Quest at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to soft) and could show better form over this shorter distance. Gee Bee Dream finished 6th of 18, just over three lengths behind Star Invader at Chester (1m, good to firm) last time. Stoppes Brow, a course winner, ran on well, 5th of 17, 3 lengths behind Junikay at Brighton (7f, good) a fortnight ago.
Selection: WELLAKI.

4.45 EBF PLANTATION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £6,000 added 2YO 6f

1 0 ASSURED MOVEMENTS (USA) (9) (Peter A Head) C Brittain 9 0 ....D Harrison 8
2 AUTOCRAT (Kingsdown Racing) M Channon 9 0 ....A Mackay 9
3 FAST AND NEAT (The Bricklayers Partnership) G Lewis 9 0 ....Paul Eddery 10
4 JADE TIGER (F C T Wilson) B Meehan 9 0 ....M Tebbutt 6
5 RHAPSODIST (USA) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9 0 ....W Ryan 5
6 6 RED DELIRIUM (17) (BF) (Terry Neill) R Hannon 9 0 ....Pat Eddery 7
7 3 ROYAL ORIGINE (14) (& Mrs Gary Pinchen) M Channon 9 0 ....T Quinn 4
8 TOY TRADER (Grant & Bowman Limited) A Jarvis 9 0 ....D Sweeney (3) 1
9 64 IVOR'S INVESTMENT (10) (W I M Perry) D Elsworth 9 0 ....S Drowne 2
10 MISS RIMEX (Nightmare Partnership) D Elsworth 8 9 ....K Fallon 3
– 10 declared –
BETTING: 5-2 Rhapsodist, 3-1 Royal Origine, 13-2 Red Delirium, 8-1 Miss Rimex, 10-1 Jade Tiger, 12-1 Assured Movements, Autocrat, Ivor's Investment, 14-1 others
1997: Shadow Of Doubt 9 0 J Reid 5-6 fav (P Chapple-Hyam) drawn (2) 8 ran

FORM GUIDE
Assured Movements started slowly, always behind, last of 7, 8 lengths behind Thunder Dragon at Windsor (5f, good) on seasonal debut. Autocrat is a Polar Falcon colt out of a lightly-raced mare. Fast And Neat is a Soviet Lad colt, brother to 6f winner Liprandi. Jade Tiger: Lion Cavern colt, half-brother to numerous winners including the very useful lengths Just A Flutter. Rhapsodist: Affirmed colt out of Secret Rhapsody. Red Delirium was an even money favourite when one paced in the final furlong, last of 6, 8 lengths behind Tony Tie at Salisbury (5f, good to soft) on seasonal debut. ROYAL ORIGINE was always prominent, led 2f out until inside final furlong, 3rd of 10, three quarters of a length behind Bodfari Muka at Chester (5f, good) first time out. Toy Trader: High Estate colt out of a moderate mare. Ivor's Investment chased leaders, ridden over 2f out, ran on one pace, 4th of 18, 5 lengths behind Ivory's Promise at Bath (5f, good) last time. Miss Rimex: Ezzoud filly, half-sister to several winners.
Selection: ROYAL ORIGINE

Kelso

HYPERION
2.00 Country Orchid 2.30 Supreme Soviet 3.00 Sandabar 3.30 Ordog Mor 4.00 Jigtime 4.30 Tough Test

GOING: Good to Firm.
● Undulating course. Run-in of two furlongs.
● Course is north of town off B6461. ADMISSION: Club £10; Tattersalls £7 (OAPs & Students £4, accompanied under-16s free). CAR PARK: Free.
● LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley 36-126 (28.6%), M Hammond 23-106 (21.7%), G Richards 19-92 (20.7%), P Monteith 15-116 (12.9%).
● LEADING JOCKEYS: A Dobbin 28-162 (17.3%), B Storey 20-173 (11.6%), R Garritty 15-66 (22.7%), L Wyer 11-71 (15.5%).
● FAVOURITES: 173-425 (40.7%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Nordic Gift (3.00), Tough Test (visored, 4.30)

2.00 ALEX TAIT NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,250 2m 2f

1 22/242 COUNTRY ORCHID (28) Mrs M Reveley 7 11 9 ....M H Naughton (5)
2 5005 JUST HUSH (11) (C) R Nixon 5 11 2 ....A Dobbin
3 1/20 BIT O MAGIC (82) R Allan 6 11 0 ....B Storey
4 665 CALLFOURSEASONS (18) Mrs A Swinbank 6 11 0 ....J Supple
5 0 REVERSE CHARGE (60) G A Harker 8 11 0 ....F Leahy (5)
6 -PPPP0 UP AND RUNNING (18) Mrs H Graham 7 11 0 ....Miss L Bradburne (7)
7 0463 FREEDOM CHANCE (14) M Hammond 4 10 9 ....R Garritty
8 KINGS INCH J Dun 4 10 9 ....A S Smith
9 P TWIN PLEASURES (14) J Bewley 4 10 4 ....S Melrose (7)
– 9 declared –
BETTING: 11-10 Country Orchid, 3-1 Freedom Chance, 11-2 Bit O Magic, 7-1 Just Hush, 12-1 Reverse Charge, 16-1 others

2.30 NATIONAL RIDING WEEK NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £3,500 2m 6f 110yds

1 214P2F KINGS MINSTRAL (5) (C) D Lamb 8 11 6 ....J Burke
2 654-P0 ABBEY LAMP (11) Miss L Russell 9 11 0 ....M Foster
3 /3050- BLACK ICE (440) T Tate 7 11 0 ....J Callaghan
4 460540 CASTLE RED (14) J Wade 7 11 0 ....K Johnson
5 F0-32P CHARIOT MAN (109) M Hammond 8 11 0 ....R Garritty
6 3006FF NOBLE NORMAN (11) Mrs M Reveley 7 11 0 ....G Lee
7 456P65 QUIXALL CROSSETT (14) E Caine 13 11 0 ....S Taylor (3)
8 4365F6 SUPER GUY (6) J Barclay 6 11 0 ....B Storey
9 16-203 SUPREME SOVIET (21) A Whillans 8 11 0 ....A Dobbin
– 9 declared –
BETTING: 5-2 Supreme Soviet, 7-2 Kings Minstral, Chariot Man, 4-1 Noble Norman, 6-1 Castle Red, 14-1 Black Ice, 20-1 others

3.00 M & J BALLANTYNE NOVICE H'CAP HDLE (CLASS E) £2,250 2m 110yds

1 200-25 HONEYSCHOICE (14) M Hammond 5 12 0 ....N Horrocks (5)
2 546533 EASTERN PROJECT (37) M Hammond 4 11 0 ....R Garritty
3 630541 VICTOR LASZLO (7) R Allan 6 11 0 (7ex) ....A Dobbin
4 045-54 SUN OF SPRING (19) S Clark 8 10 11 ....J Supple
5 32030 SAN FRANCISCO (28) A Whillans 4 10 9 ....A S Smith
6 600002 SANDABAR (19) Mrs M Reveley 5 10 9 ....G Lee
7 32P45U CARDENDEN (155) (D) J Barclay 10 10 2 ....I Jardine (7)
8 -00405 MOUNTAIN DREAM (7) R Allan 5 10 0 ....B Storey
9 4-0300 OVAHANDY MAN (11) J Gledson 7 10 0 ....K Johnson
10 5PP NORDIC GIFT (21) Mrs D Thomson 5 10 0 ....D Parker B
11 4-PPPP SON OF TEMPO (37) Mrs K Lamb 9 10 0 ....Miss S Lamb (7)
– 11 declared –
Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Mountain Dream 9st 13lb, Overhandy Man 9st 5lb, Nordic Gift 9st 0lb, Son Of Tempo 8st 13lb.
BETTING: 9-4 Victor Laszlo, 7-2 Sandabar, 4-1 Eastern Project, 5-1 Honeyschoice, 10-1 Sun Of Spring, 12-1 San Francisco, 20-1others

3.30 SOTHEBYS KNIGHT FRANK HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £4,500 3m 1f

1 1R141F COQUI LANE (32) (C) J Dun 11 11 10 ....D Parker
2 -2553A KILCOLGAN (21) (CD) Mrs J Goodfellow 11 11 1 ....Mr B Gibson (7)
3 -1161F ORDOG MOR (16) (D) M Meagher 9 10 13 ....A Dobbin
4 63-16 GARBO'S BOY (21) (CD) J Turner 8 10 5 ....J Supple
5 46-052 NOW YOUNG MAN (19) (CD) L Lungo 9 10 0 ....R Supple
6 P13465 RUSTY BLADE (6) P Monteith 8 10 0 ....S Taylor (3) B
7 -0P005 SNOOK POINT (19) D Lamb 11 10 0 ....B Storey
– 7 declared –
Minimum: 10st. True handicap: Rusty Blade 9st 8lb, Snook Point 8st 1lb.
BETTING: 11-4 Ordog Mor, 7-2 Coqui Lane, 9-2 Kilcolgan, 5-1 Garbo's Boy, Now Young Man, 6-1 Rusty Blade, 25-1 Snook Point

4.00 J RUTHERFORD LTD HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 3m 1f

1 5-5U52 TARTAN TRADEWINDS (21) (D) G Richards 11 12 7 ....Mr N Wilson (5)
2 21/1P- UNOR (FR) (366) (BF) P Wilson 12 12 7 ....Mr R Hale (5)
3 U21054 FORDSTOWN (21) J Barclay 9 12 4 ....Mr J Alexander (7)
4 P-P20P LOUGHLINSTOWN BOY (11) J Riddell 13 12 4 ....Mr D Jewett (7)
5 -0044P RUSTINO (16) (D) S Clark 12 12 4 ....Mr R Clark (7)
6 -FF225 STAIGUE FORT (16) C Storey 10 12 4 ....Mr H Norton (7)
7 11-F11 JIGTIME (33) (CD) J Hughes 9 12 2 ....Miss L Bradburne (7)
8 1PFF11 ANDY BURNETT (17) (CD) Miss S Foster 9 12 1 ....Mr B Gibson (7)
– 8 declared –
BETTING: 1-2 Jigtime, 5-1 Tartan Tradewinds, 6-1 Andy Burnett, 16-1 Unor, 20 Staigue Fort, 25 Fordstown, Loughlinstown Boy, 33 Rustino

4.30 PRUDENTIAL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,500 3m 3f

1 -34411 INVEST WISELY (60) M Hammond 6 12 0 ....R Garritty
2 144233 TOUGH TEST (6) (C) Mrs J Goodfellow 8 11 8 ....Mr B Gibson (7) B
3 4U6042 IFALLELSEFAILS (26) L Lungo 10 11 6 ....W Dowling (5)
4 -44024 LIPPY LOUISE (16) (BF) Mrs M Reveley 6 10 11 ....M H Naughton (5)
5 P1-FPU ANSURO AGAIN (57) Mrs M Reveley 9 10 11 ....N Smith
6 41F4P0 VERY EVIDENT (7) A Whillans 9 10 11 ....I Jardine (7)
7 3-552P HAND OF STRAW (11) A Whillans 6 10 7 ....A Dobbin
8 /F436 KITTOCHSIDE LAD (27) (D BF) Mrs A Swinbank 8 10 5 ....J Supple
9 -P251P RUBER (18) (C) R Thomson 11 10 0 ....Miss P Robson
10 -34046 BLOOMING SPRING (7) Mrs D Thomson 9 10 0 ....N Horrocks (5)
11 P2UPP- CLASSIC CREST (382) Miss L Russell 7 10 0 ....G Lee
12 03P000 DELIGHTFOOL (21) R Nixon 7 10 0 ....B Storey
13 -1PPP3 FISH QUAY (39) (C) Mrs K Lamb 15 10 0 ....Miss S Lamb (7)
– 13 declared –
Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Ruber 9st 12lb, Blooming Spring 9st 11lb, Classic Crest 9st 9lb, Delightfool 8st 4lb, Fish Quay 8st 2lb.
BETTING: 5-2 Invest Wisely, 4-1 Lippy Louise, 7-1 Ifallelsefails, 8-1 Tough Test, Ruber, 10-1 Kittochside Lad, 12-1 Very Evident, 14-1 others

Worcester

HYPERION
2.20 Merciless Cop 2.50 Close Harmony 3.20 Steve Ford 3.50 Specialize 4.20 Treasure Again 4.55 Glenphar

GOING: Good to Firm.
● Left-hand course, level with long straights.
● Course is on A443. ADMISSION: Members £13; Tattersalls £10; Course £5.50 (OAPs £2.75). CAR PARK: Free; picnic area £3.
● LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 44-137 (32.1%), D Nicholson 31-88 (35.2%), K Bailey 22-90 (24.4%), P Hobbs 20-114 (17.5%).
● LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 32-185 (17.3%), C Llewellyn 24-138 (17.4%), R Johnson 15-98 (15.3%), M Fitzgerald 13-115 (11.3%).
● FAVOURITES: 260-702 (37%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Chris's Glen (3.50), Lightoak Lad (4.20)
LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLER: Hum 'n' Haw (4.20) sent 185 miles.

2.20 EARLS CROOME NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,900 added 4YO 2m 4f

1 4431 MERCILESS COP (11) (C) Mrs M Jones 11 5 ....C Llewellyn B
2 5 GOLD CLIPPER (11) M Ryan 10 12 ....J Ryan
3 P2 LAUREL SEEKER (16) P Hobbs 10 12 ....Mr R Widger (7)
4 0 PIETRO BEMBO (76) N Henderson 10 12 ....M A Fitzgerald
– 4 declared –
BETTING: 4-6 Merciless Cop, 7-2 Pietro Bembo, 4-1 Laurel Seeker, 12-1 Gold Clipper

2.50 NATIONAL RIDING WEEK NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (E) £2,900 2m 4f

1 0-2555 CLOSE HARMONY (26) N Henderson 6 11 10 ....M A Fitzgerald
2 405455 DUNRAVEN LADY (28) D Brace 6 11 9 ....L Cummins (5)
3 -F004U ROSEVALLEY (16) M Pipe 8 11 8 ....R Johnson
4 466P60 ERMINE STREET (14) O Brennan 10 11 2 ....M Brennan
5 04PP0 PERSIAN BOY (14) O Sherwood 6 10 12 ....J A McCarthy
6 -00060 ZABARI (14) G Thorner 5 10 11 ....B Powell
7 040F30 DAUGHTER IN LAW (7) Miss C Caroe 5 10 11 ....T Reed
8 -40006 DINKY DORA (11) J K Cresswell 5 10 10 ....R Farrant
9 020202 BE IN SPACE (16) Miss P Whittle 7 10 9 ....J Culloty
10 003460 KATATONIC (16) R Juckes 5 10 7 ....Guy Lewis (3)
11 4/3000 PRINTEMPS (42) M Wilkinson 11 10 7 ....D Painter (7)
12 805210 MAGGIE STRAIT (186) (D BF) Mrs A King 6 10 5 ....R Thornton
13 60023 CHARLIE CHANG (8) B Llewellyn 5 10 4 ....Michael Brennan
14 50-064 MAETERLINCK (57) G Thorner 6 10 2 ....Clare Thorner (7)
15 040000 KARACHI (114) J Joseph 8 10 2 ....C Llewellyn
16 0-0065 NIRVANA PRINCESS (78) B Preece 6 10 1 ....J Mogford (7)
17 4500P2 OAKBURY (18) Miss L Siddall 6 10 1 ....T Siddall (7)
18 CP6043 CHIPALATA (14) T Donnelly 5 10 0 ....G Hogan B
19 00F0PP COMMANCHE CUP (11) A James 5 10 0 ....W Marston
20 000 SUBAROO SAM (48) J M Bradley 4 10 0 ....T Dascombe
– 20 declared –
Minimum: 10st. True weights: Commanche Cup 9st 8lb, Subaroo Sam 9st.
BETTING: 13-2 Be In Space, 7-1 Maggie Strait, 8-1 Close Harmony, Persian Boy, Charlie Chang, 10-1 Rosevalley, Ermine Street, 12-1 others

3.20 BREWERY TRADERS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000 2m 4f 110yds

1 6-P255 STRONG MEDICINE (12) (CD) K Bailey 11 11 12 ....R Farrant
2 -P23P PONGO WARING (5) (D) Miss H Knight 9 11 9 ....J Culloty
3 123F1 MR STRONG GALE (16) (D) P Nicholls 7 11 8 ....M Fitzgerald B
4 /4541 KIVETON TYCOON (16) B Gee 9 10 8 ....R Thornton B
5 -52231 STEVE FORD (12) (C) (D) C Morlock 9 10 0 ....R Johnson
6 4P4P5P TOUCH SILVER (7) H Manners 8 10 0 ....A Dowling (7)
– 6 declared –
Minimum: 10st. True weights: Steve Ford 9st 12lb, Touch Silver 8st 6lb.
BETTING: 7-4 Mr Strong Gale, 3-1 Steve Ford, 9-2 Pongo Waring, 11-2 Strong Medicine, Kiveton Tycoon, 33-1 Touch Silver

3.50 WINNALL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,575 added 2m

1 35621P SAMAND (21) (CD) Miss L Siddall 6 12 0 ....M A Fitzgerald
2 21/412 TOTALLY YOURS (16) (D BF) M Pipe 5 11 13 ....T Dascombe V
3 6F12-0 MOCK TRIAL (195) Mrs M Jones 5 11 8 ....M Richards
4 055300 BON VOYAGE (12) P Hobbs 6 11 0 ....G Tormey B
5 P5265F COME ON PENNY (16) (CD) D Gandolfo 7 10 8 ....C Llewellyn B
6 24500P APACHE PARK (36) (D) A Streeter 5 10 8 ....T Eley
7 33306- CHRIS'S GLEN (383) (CD) J M Bradley 9 10 4 ....R Johnson B
8 -PF311 SPECIALIZE (8) (D) K Burke 6 10 0 ....R Thornton B
9 -6-033P SAFECRACKER (F195) S Griffiths 5 10 0 ....D Byrne
10 /05PP- CAVO GRECO (424) J Joseph 9 10 0 ....J Goldstein (5)
– 10 declared –
Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Specialize 9st 9lb, Safecracker 9st 3lb, Cavo Greco 8st 8lb.
BETTING: 3-1 Specialize, 4-1 Totally Yours, 11-2 Bon Voyage, 6-1 Samand, 13-2 Mock Trial, 7-1 Come On Penny, 12-1 Apache Park, 14-1 others

4.20 HANDLEY CASTLE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 7f 110yds

1 21P53U HUM 'N' HAW (12) Miss A Newton-Smith 7 11 7 ....R Thornton B
2 -2P5P1 TOM'S GEMINI STAR (6) O Carter 10 11 7 ....Mr J Young (7)
3 P0/P BADBURY BOY (NZ) (37) B De Haan 10 11 0 ....L Aspell (3)
4 534356 JUST FOR A REASON (16) R Juckes 6 11 0 ....Guy Lewis (3)
5 46P/PP LIGHTOAK LAD (28) A Carroll 7 11 0 ....Mr M Rodda V
6 PPU-P0 LORD ANTRIM (22) D Burchell 9 11 0 ....D J Burchell
7 5-000P LUDO'S ORCHESTRA (11) M Campion 7 11 0 ....P Holley
8 20P-15 QUEEN'S AWARD (11) R Buckler 9 11 0 ....B Powell
9 P63055 TEL E THON (6) Miss C Caroe 11 11 0 ....T Reed V
10 2F-3P2 TREASURE AGAIN (11) (D) Mrs M Jones 9 11 0 ....C Llewellyn
11 P33644 ZAITOON (11) D Nicholson 7 11 0 ....R Johnson
12 5P1P3/ BALMY BREEZE (1485) (D) P Hedger 11 10 9 ....M Richards
– 12 declared –
BETTING: 5-2 Zaitoon, 3-1 Treasure Again, 9-2 Tom's Gemini Star, 7-1 Hum 'n' Haw, Queen's Award, 10-1 Just For A Reason, 16-1 others

4.55 SHRAWLEY STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 2m

1 3U-1 POPSI'S CLOGGS (15) R Curtis 6 11 11 ....J Leech
2 ARDNUT T Gill 6 11 4 ....L Suthern (7)
3 ARRY'S AWAY M Pipe 5 11 4 ....C Durham (7)
4 CLEEVE CASTLE D O'Neill 6 11 4 ....E Husband (3)
5 0 FIVE-O (34) T D Mccarthy 5 11 4 ....Mr T McCarthy
6 5 GLENPHAR (48) Bob Jones 5 11 4 ....P Hide
7 R KILGAL (32) A Hollingsworth 5 11 4 ....T Leach
8 KINSFORD BOY M Pipe 5 11 4 ....J Lower
9 P MR FITZ (16) P Hedger 5 11 4 ....M Richards
10 NEED MORE PRACTICE B Preece 5 11 4 ....Mr H Ephgrave (7)
11 SIR TOBY R Rowe 5 11 4 ....B Powell
12 PPP STAR CHANGES (22) A Hollingsworth 5 11 4 ....Guy Lewis (3)
13 0/0-2 WIN THE TOSS (18) C Egerton 6 11 4 ....M Berry (5)
14 DID YOU KNOW C Barwell 5 10 13 ....P Holley
15 MOUNTAIN WOLF K Bishop 5 10 13 ....J Mogford (7)
16 0 OTTER VALLEY (8) O Carter 6 10 13 ....Mr J Young (7)
17 PAXFORD TROOPER P Nicholls 4 10 13 ....L Cummins (5)
18 P0 RO-JO (55) A Chamberlain 4 10 13 ....Clare Thorner (7)
19 ROMANY RON R Hodges 4 10 13 ....T Dascombe
20 0 VILLAGE GOSSIP (11) Miss L Siddall 5 10 13 ....T Siddall (7)
21 ERICS MISTRESS K Bishop 4 10 8 ....R Greene
22 LADY MARLOW Miss V Williams 4 10 8 ....S Kelly (5)
– 22 declared –
BETTING: 3-1 Win The Toss, 9-2 Arry's Away, Kinsford Boy, 6-1 Popsi's Cloggs, 8-1 Lady Marlow, 10-1 Paxford Trooper, 14-1 others

Newton Abbot

HYPERION
6.10 Rainbow Star 6.40 Clifton Beat 7.10 After The Fox 7.40 Good King Henry 8.10 Afon Alwen 8.40 Jimmy's Cross

GOING: Good to Firm.
● Left-hand, sharp course with short run-in.
● Course is N of town on A380. Station 1m. ADMISSION: Tattersalls £11. Course £5. Under-16s free. CAR PARK: Free.
● LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 97-337 (28.8%), P Hobbs 52-167 (31%), P Nicholls 35-142 (24.6%), R Frost 27-229 (11.8%).
● LEADING JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody 54-164 (32.9%), C Maude 15-108 (13.9%), D Gallagher 7-52 (13.5%), T Dascombe 6-79 (7.6%).
● FAVOURITES: 309-708 (43.6%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Rainbow Star (6.10): Probation (7.40), Morchard Milly (7.40), Pekay (8.10).

6.10 COME RACING AT NA NOVICE H'DLE (D) £3,750 4YO 2m 1f — SKY

1 2221P2 RAINBOW STAR (14) (CD) M Pipe 11 5 ....C Maude B
2 F3 HERE'S TO HOWIE (11) M R Bosley 10 12 ....J R Kavanagh
3 LYDFORD CASTLE R Frost 10 12 ....J Frost
4 MOGUL (F298) R Baker 10 12 ....V Slattery
5 6 MUKDAR (11) K Bailey 10 12 ....G Bradley
6 6FP000 SHADED (11) P Rodford 10 12 ....S Burrough
7 SWISS VALLEY LAD (F87) N Babbage 10 12 ....L Harvey
8 P05 THEOS (48) N Ayliffe 10 12 ....D Burrows (5)
9 DRUNA R Simpson 10 7 ....D Gallagher
10 05200 FIVE LIVE (72) S Cole 10 7 ....G Supple (5)
– 10 declared –
BETTING: 4-6 Rainbow Star, 5-1 Mukdar, 6-1 Here's To Howie, 16-1 Lydford Castle, Druna, 20-1 Shaded, Swiss Valley Lad, 25-1 others

6.40 WESTCOUNTRY TV NOVICE CHASE (E) £4,000 2m 110yds — SKY

1 FPU3-0 ALLAHRAKHA (63) M Hill 7 11 0 ....C Webb (3)
2 4000- BATTLE AIR (456) G Edwards 10 11 0 ....D Salter (3)
3 P-P2F BRIDGE MAN (4) R Alner 8 11 0 ....J Frost
4 -0J422 CLIFTON BEAT (65) (D) (BF) P Hobbs 7 11 0 ....G Bradley
5 /F-PPF GEORGIE PORGIE (67) R Buckler 6 11 0 ....Mr M Frith (7)
6 FP0F3 PERFIK LARK (48) R Brotherton 8 11 0 ....G Tormey
7 0F002 SQUIRE YORK (18) (D) J Neville 8 11 0 ....J R Kavanagh
8 30P3 TOPPERILLO (69) J McConnochie 9 11 0 ....S Curran
9 234543 KILLONE RIVER (4) R Alner 6 10 9 ....Mr R Widger (7)
10 -8425 SAM ROCKETT (174) (BF) M Pipe 5 10 8 ....C Maude
– 10 declared –
BETTING: 7-4 Clifton Beat, 11-4 Squire York, 3-1 Sam Rockett, 10-1 Bridge Man, 16-1 Topperillo, 20-1 Perfik Lark, 25-1 others

7.10 SPA-TRANS HANDICAP CHASE (C) £7,000 2m 5f 110yd — SKY

1 1-3130 LARRY'S LORD (14) (CD) P Nicholls 9 11 10 ....C Maude
2 431-0F POLDEN PRIDE (12) (CD) G Balding 10 11 7 ....B Clifford
3 461156 EASTHORPE (12) (C) Miss H Knight 10 11 5 ....J F Titley
4 F23143 THURSDAY NIGHT (37) (CD) P Nicholls 7 10 12 ....Mr J Tizzard (5)
5 414F10 AFTER THE FOX (4) (C) N Hawke 11 10 9 ....J R Kavanagh
6 F1FP13 MR PLAYFULL (21) (CD) R Frost 8 10 7 ....J Frost
7 /P6FU0 ROCQUAINE (37) (D) B Scriven 12 10 0 ....G Supple (5)
– 7 declared –
BETTING: 5-2 Mr Playfull, 7-2 Easthorpe, 9-2 Larry's Lord, 5-1 Thursday Night, 7-1 Polden Pride, After The Fox, 20-1 Rocquaine

7.40 NA INTERMEDIATE HUNTER CHASE (H) £2,500 3m 2f 110yd — SKY

1 PPUF10 GOOD KING HENRY (12) I Widdicombe 12 11 7 ....Mr I Widdicombe (7)
2 B3112 PLAY POKER (10) Ms Kay Rees 10 11 7 ....Miss P Curling (5)
3 P52483 PROBATION (16) C Blank 9 11 7 ....Mr N Harris (7) B
4 -RP222 FLYING MARIA (12) J S Papworth 7 11 2 ....Mr C Heard (7)
5 3PPP24 LADY LIR (10) B Young 9 11 2 ....Miss S Young (7)
6 6434P MORCHARD MILLY (18) R Grant 11 11 2 ....Mr A Holdsworth (7) B
– 6 declared –
BETTING: 6-4 Flying Maria, 7-4 Play Poker, 7-1 Lady Lir, 8-1 Good King Henry, 10-1 Probation, 20-1 Morchard Milly

8.10 FINAL FLING NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,400 added 2m 1f

1 016 MAJOR CHANGE (F16) (D) Miss G Kelleway 6 11 8 ....G Bradley
2 1545 PEKAY (65) M Pipe 5 11 6 ....C Maude B
3 21 AFON ALWEN (15) P Hobbs 5 11 1 ....G Tormey
4 4 ACCESS ADVENTURER (55) R Frost 7 11 0 ....J Frost
5 DELAMAINS GOLD R Simpson 7 11 0 ....Mr J Owen (7)
6 444P MASTER MILLFIELD (174) R Hodges 6 11 0 ....T Dascombe
7 066 PABLO'S JET (15) P Farrell 5 11 0 ....R Greene
8 PP-P BONNY BAROSY (36) Miss A Howard-Chappell 7 10 9 ....J L Harvey
9 0 GAY ARCTIC (36) P Hobbs 5 10 9 ....Mr R Widger (7)
– 9 declared –
BETTING: 5-4 Afon Alwen, 4-1 Major Change, 9-2 Pekay, 10-1 Access Adventurer, Master Millfield, 12-1 Gay Arctic, 25-1 others

8.40 BLASKET HERO MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 2m 6f

1 11FPF5 DIWALI DANCER (18) (D) M Pipe 8 12 0 ....C Maude
2 -6821B RICH LIFE (15) B Baker 8 10 8 ....V Slattery
3 P-24U4 JIMMY'S CROSS (12) (BF) G Balding 8 10 5 ....J Frost
4 520505 JOVIAL MAN (7) (CD) Mrs J Scrivens 9 10 2 ....G Shenkin (5)
5 11/3P0 MARINE SOCIETY (21) (CD) A Hobbs 10 10 1 ....Mr R Widger (7)
6 131P62 GERRY'S PRIDE (16) (CD) J Mullins 7 10 0 ....A Bates (3)
7 3-4203 ISIS DAWN (87) (D) P Hobbs 6 10 0 ....G Tormey
8 363031 MYSTIC HILL (63) (C) R Frost 7 10 0 ....B Powell
– 8 declared –
Minimum: 10st. True h'cap weights: Isis Dawn 9st 13lb, Mystic Hill 9st 8lb.
BETTING: 3-1 Gerry's Pride, 9-2 Mystic Hill, 5-1 Isis Dawn, 11-2 Diwali Dancer, Jimmy's Cross, 8-1 Rich Life, Jovial Man, 12-1 Marine Society

Uttoxeter

HYPERION
6.25 Mighty Phantom 6.55 Garrison Friendly 7.25 Inchcailloch 7.55 Ilewin Janine 8.25 Step On Eyre 8.55 Calon Lan

GOING: Good to Firm.
● Left-hand course. Run-in of 170yds.
● Course is SE of town near B5017. ADMISSION: Club £15 (OAPs £12); Tattersalls £10 (OAPs £7); Centre course £5. CAR PARK: Free.
● LEADING TRAINERS: N Twiston-Davies 20-104 (19.2%), K Bailey 19-110 (17.3%), Miss H Knight 17-80 (21.3%), S Brookshaw 16-75 (21.3%).
● LEADING JOCKEYS: R Johnson 15-116 (12.9%), C Llewellyn 13-82 (15.9%), M A Fitzgerald 11-76 (14.5%), J Culloty 10-37 (27%).
● FAVOURITES: 271-716 (37.8%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Beau Quest (6.55), Cochiti (7.55).

6.25 CARLING BLACK LABEL MAIDEN HURDLE (E) £3,000 2m — SKY

1 1-0333 BIG PERKS (60) (D) P Dalton 6 11 5 ....R Johnson
2 4-3056 BROTHER HARRY (8) J Wharton 6 11 5 ....Michael Brennan
3 006 C D BOY (25) G McCourt 5 11 5 ....W Marston
4 0 GINGER METAL (18) W Clay 5 11 5 ....Gary Lyons
5 P SERGEYEV (90) O Sherwood 6 11 5 ....J A McCarthy
6 P4P TYCOON TED (14) W Brisbourne 5 11 5 ....J Goldstein (5)
7 ALZARO (F221) P Cheesbrough 4 11 0 ....C Llewellyn
8 04 GIVE ME SPACE (15) T Forster 5 11 0 ....S Wynne
9 HIPPARQUE (F248) Mrs J Pitman 4 11 0 ....G Hogan
10 0F- HONEYSUCKLE ROSE (359) J Wainwright 5 11 0 ....L Wyer
11 00 LITTLE HULTON (182) Miss H Knight 5 11 0 ....R Bellamy
12 0F MIGHTY PHANTOM (57) R Philips 5 11 0 ....M A Fitzgerald
13 62P NEMISTO (53) Miss H Knight 4 11 0 ....J Culloty
14 0 POLAR FLIGHT (48) Miss V Williams 4 11 0 ....R Farrant
15 45P SAINT CECILIA (37) B Eckley 5 11 0 ....R Thornton
16 00-406 WHAT THE DEVIL (F28) J Smith 5 11 0 ....W Worthington
– 16 declared –
BETTING: 3-1 Big Perks, 9-2 Sergeyev, 6-1 Mighty Phantom, 7-1 Give Me Space, Nemisto, 10-1 Alzaro, 12-1 Hipparque, 16-1 others

6.55 BASS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (E) £3,000 3m 110yds — SKY

1 403220 BAVARDIER (35) G Balding 7 11 10 ....S Fox
2 F0582 GARRISON FRIENDLY (35) (D) N Henderson 5 11 8 ....M Fitzgerald
3 043121 WATER FONT (25) J J O'Neill 6 11 0 ....R McGrath (3)
4 6P0520 MONOTONY (14) C Grant 5 10 11 ....Miss V Roberts (7)
5 0P002' BEAU QUEST (754) B Cambidge 11 10 5 ....Sophie Mitchell (3) B
6 -02FF8 CLONTOURA (16) (D) I Williams 10 10 4 ....D J Casey
7 P125P4 PENNYAHEI (19) S Brookshaw 7 10 3 ....X Aizpuru (3)
8 6P6300 LIME STREET BLUES (76) T Kiddy 7 10 1 ....J Goldstein (5)
9 660FPP SAFE TO ASSUME (5) R Brazington 7 10 0 ....R Massey (3)
– 9 declared –
BETTING: 2-1 Garrison Friendly, 7-2 Bavardier, Water Font, 7-1 Monotony, Lime Street Blues, 12-1 Pennyahei, 16-1 Clontoura, 25-1 others

7.25 CAFFREYS IRISH ALE HANDICAP CHASE (C) £7,000 3m 2f — SKY

1 35F046 INCHCAILLOCH (14) J King 9 11 10 ....M A Fitzgerald
2 1P45U2 SON OF IRIS (18) Mrs M Reveley 10 11 7 ....L Wyer
3 F2FU22 GENERAL PONGO (14) (CD) P Webber 9 11 0 ....R Johnson
4 U22414 THE GOPHER (25) (D) D Wintle 9 10 9 ....W Marston
– 4 declared –
BETTING: 5-4 General Pongo, 9-4 Son Of Iris, 4-1 Inchcailloch, 6-1 The Gopher

7.55 HOOPER'S HOOCH CONDITIONALS SELLING H'CAP HURDLE (G) £2,000 2m

1 0P30-0 ARABIAN BOLD (16) (CD) R Juckes 10 11 13 ....Guy Lewis
2 -5130 FIJON (181) (D) J Alen 5 11 11 ....X Aizpuru
3 P22-22 ILEWIN JANINE (9) S Brookshaw 7 11 8 ....M Dunne (3)
4 214420 NONIOS (168) (D) G M Moore 7 11 7 ....N Hannity (5)
5 011-00 STRIKE-A-POSE (36) (CD) B Llewellyn 8 10 12 ....Michael Brennan
6 064 ILLINEYLAD (28) J Neville 4 10 5 ....R Thornton
7 00046 TIMOTHY GEORGE (18) G Balding 4 10 2 ....F Keniry (5) V
8 405F00 NORTHERN NATION (14) (CD) W Clay 10 10 0 ....L Aspell V
9 06F006 COCHITI (5) P Hiatt 4 10 0 ....E Husband B
10 -P0050 LADY PENDRAGON (71) N Smith 9 10 0 ....D Creech (5)
11 P0P006 NORTHERN FLASH (18) J Haynes 4 10 0 ....R McGrath B
12 33-500 TEE TEE TOO (234) A Carroll 6 10 0 ....A Scholes (5)
13 PP-PPP ALTHREY ARISTOCRAT (53) F Lloyd 8 10 0 ....Sophie Mitchell
– 13 declared –
Minimum: 10st. True handicap weights: Cochiti 9st 13lb, Lady Pendragon 9st 10lb, Northern Flash 9st 8lb, Tee Tee Too 9st 7lb, Althrey Aristocrat 9st 4lb.
BETTING: 11-4 Ilewin Janine, 4-1 Nonios, 6-1 Fijon, 7-1 Timothy George, 10-1 Strike-A-Pose, Northern Nation, Tee Tee Too, 12-1 others

8.25 CARLING PREMIER NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 5f

1 2P3312 STEP ON EYRE (16) (BF) T Forster 8 11 6 ....R Johnson
2 00P00F CONNEL'S CROFT (11) T Kiddy 6 11 0 ....J Goldstein (5)
3 00002F MARKET SPRINGER (16) J L Harris 7 11 0 ....J Magee (3)
4 -2102 KING OF SPARTA (96) (C) O Sherwood 5 10 7 ....J A McCarthy
– 4 declared –
BETTING: 4-7 Step On Eyre, 7-4 King Of Sparta, 12-1 Market Springer, 50-1 Connel's Croft

8.55 WORTHINGTON BITTER NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 2m 4f 110yds

1 F-4P13 CALON LAN (60) N Henderson 7 11 7 ....M A Fitzgerald
2 00P68 BARTON BLACK (5) S Brookshaw 6 11 0 ....S Wynne
3 05U ROCK ON HONEY (736) A Carroll 6 11 0 ....A Scholes (7)
4 00000 RUSTIC REVELRY (22) R York 5 11 0 ....Mr P York
5 50 SURPRISE GUNNER (9) Mrs M Jones 6 11 0 ....D Carey (7)
6 000/0- OUR LAUGHTER (428) J Mackie 8 10 9 ....T Eley
– 6 declared –
BETTING: 1-3 Calon Lan, 6-1 Rock On Honey, 8-1 Surprise Gunner, 12-1 Barton Black, 25-1 Rustic Revelry, 50-1 Our Laughter

'Zulu' ready for double challenge

South Africa's Lance Klusener is a man with a mission, writes **Derek Pringle**

IN A country where sportsmen are pointed the way to the Wanderers and Ellis Park the moment they can walk, late developers are an uncommon breed. Lance Klusener, South Africa's fast bowling all-rounder, is even more unusual. A country boy from deepest Zululand, he hardly ever made the school first team. Indeed, he only began bowling after he had joined the Army, apparently because it "got to be boring standing around in the field waiting to bat".

Unlike Australia, South Africa's route to sporting experience tends to be an urban one. For Klusener, though, competitive cricket began in the country districts league, a competition described as "social," even by South African standards. Now, some eight years later, he plays the game well enough to have opened both the batting and bowling for his country, albeit in one-day cricket. This is a role he may once again fulfil over the forthcoming Texaco Trophy matches against England, the first of which is tomorrow at The Oval.

What with the first 15 overs now being the most important part of a one-day match, I asked him if he was not a bit daunted at the prospect of being thrust into the front line with both bat and ball?

"Been there, done that," he said with curt matter-of-factness, a throwback perhaps to his German ancestry. "It may be more difficult to pinch hit over here, though, as the bounce isn't quite the same as back home. But, if I have to do both jobs, I'll know I've done it before."

This uncomplicated attitude is typical of the man known to the rest of the team simply as "Zulu." According to one journalist, Klusener has "a mental dimension free of clutter," and is not easily fazed.

Apparently, when Daryll Cullinan was once more being psyched out by his *bête noire*, Shane Warne, in the recent series – a state of affairs that eventually saw Cullinan dropped – Klusener could not understand why he simply did not go out and slog Warne round the park.

If the philosophy sounds simplistic, Klusener's habit of rising to the big occasion is perhaps one in the eye for pedantic analysts everywhere. His eventual arrival on the big stage 18 months ago – after a short apprenticeship with Natal – perhaps suggested there would be a gentle feeling of the way. Instead, stepping out in the Calcutta haze to make his Test debut against India, his cricketing education was fast-tracked in a match where the whole spectrum between those sporting poles of success and failure was experienced in five days.

Picked primarily for his bowling, he was smashed for 75 runs from 14 overs with Mohammed Azharuddin, India's rubber-wristed batting wizard, flaying him for five fours off successive deliveries. In a cauldron-like Eden Gardens, many would have been destroyed. Yet, in the second innings, with Allan Donald incapacitated by a bruised heel, Klusener returned and, finding a captain willing to back him, took 8 for 64. South Africa won and Klusener recorded the best-ever figures by a South African on his debut.

"For me the most important thing is to take your chances. At the time I thought: you've dreamed and worked all of your life to play Test cricket and here it is disappearing fast in a matter of overs.

"In the second innings, we changed a few things such as length, but that success helped set me up to where I am today. To experience that great high so soon after a great low has stood me in good stead. Basically, I now know to hang in there and never give up."

Apart from his undoubted talents as a bustling fast bowler and a hard-hitting left-handed batsmen, it is unstinting effort and aggression that stand out as the central pillars of the 26-year-old's game. "He is a fiery competitor," said Bob Woolmer, South Africa's coach, who claimed Klusener's comeback in Calcutta confirmed that the man had that something special to go the distance.

The dashing deeds did not end there, either, and, three Tests later, this time in Cape Town, he took 102 off the Indian attack in just 100 balls. More amazing than the speed, the fastest-ever century by a South African in terms of balls faced, was that he achieved the feat batting at No 9.

The slight downside of these two explosive performances is that it has given him a reputation as a streak player – an all or nothing man – something his recent exclusion from the Test side has made him more aware of. "Obviously I'm looking for more consistency," he admitted. "But it's not a bad thing to have someone in the team who can turn things around quickly."

As a bowler, he has been clocked at 156kmh (about 95mph). But if the raw pace should provide England's batsmen with the odd sobering thought, the fact that some polish, as well as an outswinger, has been added, courtesy of Dennis Lillee's bowling academy in Madras, makes him a dangerous prospect, particularly in the wake of Donald and Shaun Pollock.

His three years in the Army were spent in intelligence. "The Army was just something I did while I was making up my mind what to study. When I was at school, you could never say that there was a living to be made out of cricket. But then our chance came along, we were allowed back into international cricket. You've got to take a chance like that."

A man of few frills, Klusener's upbringing among the sugar-cane plantations of Natal – Gingindlovu to be precise – is perhaps not exceptional in a country initially colonised by farmers. However, his ability to master Zulu before English probably is, though he was perfectly clear in his second language about his intentions for the summer.

"To come and beat England at the home of cricket would be a wonderful thing and I'm determined to give my all to accomplish that." Like the Zulu warriors of a century ago, it sounds as if he does not intend taking any English prisoners this summer.

The South African all-rounder Lance Klusener at Canterbury yesterday: 'I know how to hang in there and never give up' Photograph: Peter Jay

S Africa reveal ominous appetite

By John Collis
at Canterbury

South Africa 290-7
Kent 192
South Africa win by 98 runs

THE EFFICIENT South African machine rolled over a weakened Kent yesterday, and looked in ominous shape for the imminent one-day internationals.

Kent greeted them with something of a second XI. England squaddies Matthew Fleming and Mark Ealham were absent, of course, while the skipper Steve Marsh and the quick bowler Ben Phillips nursed a brace of groin strains. The coach, John Wright, chose to deplete his stock further by giving a day off to Carl Hooper, Dean Headley and Alan Wells.

Put into bat by the acting captain, Trevor Ward, the visitors took advantage of a friendly wicket and a hot, still day. After Gary Kirsten's early dismissal Gerhardus Liebenberg and Jacques Kallis set about establishing a stand of substance, mixing scampers with a succession of battering boundaries.

They added 115 and fell almost together, handing the baton to Daryll Cullinan and Hansie Cronje. While Cullinan collected the singles, his skipper danced around, wielding the big blade. It is unusual for a big one-day score not to be pinned on one epic innings. In this case there were four enterprising contributions.

Had it not been for the accuracy and pace of Alan Igglesden, South Africa could have batted themselves out of sight. The Kent bowler's three Tests are distant memories, and he is no stranger to the physiotherapist – a self-mocking caricature on the front of his testimonial brochure has him running in to bowl swathed in bandages. But when he is fit and firing, the virtues of line, length, height and speed make him a valuable asset. His four wickets cost just 40 runs, while his seam partner, Julian Thompson, and ex-England spinner Min Patel were butchered.

The Kent reply began in undaunted fashion, thanks to the 19-year-old Robert Key. This tall right-hander has had a disappointing Under-19 tour to South Africa, but only recently made his Championship debut, and this was his first one-day match for Kent of any significance.

He showed little respect to the South African pace trio of Shaun Pollock, Lance Klusener and Allan Donald, and danced down the pitch to the first ball from the veteran spinner Pat Symcox. Alas, a dreadful yahoo of a shot was his undoing after a 50 that included nine boundaries, but Key is a man with a future, and the only Kent batsman to interrupt South Africa's victory stroll.

● The South African fast bowler Roger Telemachus, who dislocated his right shoulder in a freak accident in practice last week, is to return home for an operation. He will be repiaced on tour by Steve Elworthy.

Newells the jewel for Sussex

By Henry Blofeld
at Worcester

Sussex 258-7
Worcestershire 155
Sussex win by 103 runs

THE CENTREPIECE of a curious AXA League match was a splendid partnership of 181 for Sussex's second wicket between the Newell brothers, Keith and Mark. They took them to a total which was well beyond the Worcestershire batsmen on a benign enough pitch.

The drama for the Newell brothers only began with these bare facts. Wearing Sussex's mustard yellow outfit topped with a crash helmet, they were difficult to tell apart. There were times when even the Sussex scorer was puzzled, to say nothing of the scoreboard operators.

Keith, who is 21 months older than Mark, opened the innings and, after being dropped three times, appeared to reach his 100 in the 32nd over. One run later the display of brotherly love broke down and Mark was run out attempting a leg bye for, as the scoreboard told us, 72.

One run later, Keith drove Graeme Hick to midwicket and departed to ringing applause with 103 against his name. But a six he had hit to wide mid-on off Hick, and which was originally signalled as such, had been resignalled as a four and this was not spotted until later and so his 103 became 101.

At the ending of the innings the scorers had a recount and came up with the surprising statistics that Keith had in reality made only 97, while his brother's score was 77, and the partnership had, reasonably enough, come back from 183 to 181. The only inescapable fact is that this was the highest stand for Sussex by two brothers against Worcestershire at New Road in a Sunday League match played on a Tuesday.

Maybe it was a case of divine intervention for no longer rendering unto to Sunday the things that are Sunday's. For all that, the Newells played some lovely strokes against some pretty ordinary Worcestershire bowling. The brothers despatched long hops and full tosses to the boundary, almost invariably finding the gaps between the fielders, and both reached their highest score in the competition before the middle order collapsed against the off-spin of Hick.

The Worcestershire batsmen were never able to make sufficient headway against steady Sussex bowling well managed by their acting captain, Mike Bevan. Keith Newell made up for some of the disappointment of missing his 100 by picking up four wickets at medium pace and Sussex, who lost their first three AXA games, have now won their last two in what is turning out to be quite a season for them.

Another injury for Munton

TIM MUNTON'S injury problems returned on the second day of Warwickshire's three-day fixture against Oxford University at The Parks yesterday.

Munton, who missed the whole of last season while recovering from back surgery, pulled up with a tweaked hamstring midway through the morning session. He could be out of action for a fortnight.

A career-best 73 from Jason Molins led a creditable Oxford reply to Warwickshire's first innings of 307 for 7, as the students declared at 269 for 9 off 93 overs. Warwickshire scored a rapid 64 without loss off 13 overs before the close.

At Fenner's, Durham closed on 186 for 1 in their second innings, 337 ahead of Cambridge University, who were dismissed for 119 in their first innings.

Handy Hancock is the hero

TIM HANCOCK played a significant role in ensuring that Gloucestershire condemned struggling Nottinghamshire to their sixth successive defeat in all competitions in the AXA League at Trent Bridge yesterday.

The 26-year-old all-rounder hit a one-day best of 73 to give Gloucestershire's innings a look of some respectability after they had been in early trouble at 58 for 5. Then it was Hancock's smart fielding on the extra cover boundary that gave Gloucestershire a one-run victory in a thrilling finish.

The England Under-19 player Paul Franks needed to hit the last ball for four to win the match for Nottinghamshire. But Hancock thwarted that effort and also stopped Franks from pinching a third run that would have earned the home side a tie.

Mark Alleyne must have been questioning his decision to bat first when his side soon hit trouble, as Kevin Evans claimed two early victims to set the tone for the first half of Gloucestershire's innings. But Hancock joined Jack Russell at the crease and proceeded to share a sixth-wicket partnership of 98 in 18 overs.

Russell was eventually dismissed by Franks for a workmanlike 40, but Hancock went on to reach 73. That performance was chiefly responsible for Gloucestershire rattling up 93 runs off the last 10 overs.

Nottinghamshire made a poor start to their run chase and lost wickets at crucial points in the early stages, and it was only a half century from Noel Gie, who hit 56, which kept them within range.

There was another close finish at Uxbridge, where Essex fell short on 198 for 7 to lose by two runs against Middlesex.

The Essex opener Darren Robinson made 83 but was then run out and, despite Stephen Peters making 54, it was not quite enough against their Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final opponents. Middlesex had earlier made 200 for 8, with Mark Ramprakash top scoring with 57.

Leicestershire also finished just short in their run chase at Derbyshire despite the best efforts of Paul Nixon, who ended up on 50 not out in their seven-run defeat.

Derbyshire had set what looked a highly attainable target after being restricted to 190 for 6, in which their Australian opener Michael Slater was the top scorer with 68. But the home side's bowlers put the brakes on Leicestershire's scoring, and Nixon's unbeaten half-century was their largest contribution as they were restricted to 183 for 7.

Tony Penberthy's unbeaten 79 steered Northamptonshire to a seven-wicket victory over Somerset at Taunton.

Glamorgan's free-day defeat

GLAMORGAN allowed fans into Sophia Gardens for free yesterday, but the Welsh county's attempt to increase interest in "Sunday" cricket on a weekday was not blessed with success on the pitch.

The free-for-all in Cardiff was spoiled by Yorkshire, who won by 37 runs to go to the top of the AXA League table. Glamorgan were dismissed for 188, with Ryan Sidebottom taking 6 for 40, including four wickets in five balls. Tony Cottey led the way for the home side with 78.

Yorkshire had earlier made 225 for 5 off their 40 overs, with David Byas hitting 71 and Anthony McGrath unbeaten on 55.

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Scoreboard

AXA League

One-day matches

Derbyshire v Leicestershire
DERBY: Derbyshire won by seven runs.
Derbyshire won toss
DERBYSHIRE
M J Slater st Nixon b Willemson 68
K J Barnett run out 8
A S Rollins run out 11
T A Tweats c and b Wells 4
P A J DeFreitas c Smith b Willemson 45
M E Cassier not out 24
*†D G Cork b Simmons 0
†K M Krikken not out 15
Extras (b2, lb10, w3, nb2) 17
Total (for 6, 40 overs) 190
Fall: 1-20, 2-84, 3-71, 4-127, 5-164, 6-159.
Did not bat: P Aldred, G M Roberts, K J Dean.
Bowling: Mullally 8-2-20-0; Simmons 8-0-44-1; Wells 8-0-33-1; Brimson 8-0-29-0; Willemson 6-0-34-2; Dakin 2-0-8-0.
LEICESTERSHIRE
*P W Simmons c Cork b DeFreitas 8
V J Wells b Cork 25
B F Smith b Roberts 39
I J Sutcliffe b Aldred 8
A Habib c Rollins b Aldred 7
†P A Nixon not out 50
J M Dakin c Cassier b Roberts 12
D I Stevens b Cork 21
D Willemson not out 2
Extras (b4, lb3, w2, nb2) 11
Total (for 7, 40 overs) 183
Fall: 1-24, 2-44, 3-67, 4-80, 5-120, 6-138, 7-161.
Did not bat: M T Brimson, A D Mullally.
Bowling: DeFreitas 8-0-30-1; Dean 8-0-33-0; Cork 8-0-35-2; Aldred 8-0-38-2; Roberts 8-0-40-2.
Umpires: P Willey and K E Palmer.

Glamorgan v Yorkshire
CARDIFF: Yorkshire won by 37 runs.
Glamorgan won toss
YORKSHIRE
M P Vaughan c Powell b Parkin 25
C White c Cottey b Parkin 15
*D Byas c Cottey b Wager 71
D S Lehmann c Shaw b Cosker 47
A McGrath not out 55
S Parker c Parkin b Thomas 0
Extras (lb5, w7) 12
Total (for 5, 40 overs) 225
Fall: 1-41, 2-46, 3-140, 4-219, 5-225.
Did not bat: †R J Blakey, P M Hutchison, G M Hamilton, R D Stemp, R J Sidebottom.
Bowling: Wager 8-0-49-1; Parkin 8-0-29-2; Watton 8-1-39-0; Thomas 6-0-32-1; Dale 4-0-24-0; Cosker 6-0-47-1.
GLAMORGAN
†A D Shaw c Blakey b Sidebottom 5
A Dale lbw b Sidebottom 17
*P A Cottey b Sidebottom 78
M J Powell c Vaughan b White 33
A W Evans c Blakey b Hamilton 3
G P Butcher c Vaughan b Hamilton 27
S D Thomas b Sidebottom 1
Wagar Younis lbw b Sidebottom 0
S L Watkin not out 2
D A Cosker b Sidebottom 0
D T Parkin b White 1
Extras (lb11, w8, nb4) 21
Total (37.1 overs) 188
Fall: 1-21, 2-33, 3-95, 4-106, 5-181, 6-185, 7-185, 8-185, 9-186.
Bowling: Sidebottom 8-0-40-6; Hutchison 7-0-30-0; Stemp 5-0-31-0; White 6.1-1-17-2; Hamilton 6-0-30-2; Lehmann 3-0-19-0; Vaughan 2-0-10-0.
Umpires: J H Harris and D R Shepherd.

Worcestershire v Sussex
WORCESTER: Sussex won by 103 runs.
Sussex won toss
SUSSEX
K Greenfield b Sheriyar 18
K Newell c Moody b Hick 102
M Newell run out 74
*M G Bevan c Rhodes b Hick 1
J R Carpenter c Lampitt b Leatherdale 16
M T E Peirce st Rhodes b Hick 2
A D Edwards b Hick 2
†S Humphries not out 7
J D Lewry not out 3
Extras (lb13, w12, nb12) 37
Total (for 7, 40 overs) 280
Fall: 1-38, 2-221, 3-225, 4-230, 5-234, 6-240, 7-255.
Did not bat: R J Kirtley, M A Robinson.
Bowling: Newport 5-1-41-0; Moody 5-0-32-0; Sheriyar 3-0-20-1; Illingworth 8-0-37-0; Lampitt 8-0-27-0; Hick 8-0-48-4; Leatherdale 5-0-62-1.
WORCESTERSHIRE
*T M Moody c Carpenter b Kirtley 10
V S Solanki st Humphries b K Newell 39
G A Hick c Carpenter b Edwards 23
G R Haynes c & b K Newell 32
D A Leatherdale b Robinson 1
W P C Weston c Carpenter b K Newell 3
S R Lampitt b Bevan 5
†S J Rhodes c Humphries b K Newell 7
R K Illingworth lbw b K Newell 4
P J Newport not out 2
A Sheriyar st Humphries b Bevan 1
Extras (lb11, w15, nb2) 28
Total (33.1 overs) 155
Fall: 1-25, 2-64, 3-101, 4-102, 5-118, 6-138, 7-147, 8-151, 9-153.
Bowling: Lewry 5-1-20-0; Kirtley 4-1-6-1; Robinson 8-0-32-1; Edwards 4-0-33-1; K Newell 8-0-33-5; Bevan 4.1-0-20-2.
Umpires: D J Constant and A A Jones.

Middlesex v Essex
UXBRIDGE: Middlesex won by two runs.
Essex won toss
MIDDLESEX
R L Johnson b Cousins 16
J L Langer lbw b Cousins 3
*M R Ramprakash c Hussain b Wilson 57
J C Pooley lbw b Cousins 4
†O A Shah run out 10
P N Weekes c S G Law b D R Law 20
D C Nash b Ikin 29
K P Dutch not out 19
J P Hewitt b Ilott 1
I N Blanchett not out 9
Extras (b1, lb11, w18, nb2) 32
Total (for 8, 40 overs) 200
Fall: 1-20, 2-32, 3-47, 4-72, 5-110, 6-160, 7-167, 8-169.
Did not bat: N D Martin.
Bowling: Ilott 8-0-24-1; Cousins 8-0-29-3; Ikin 8-0-39-1; D R Law 8-0-38-1; Brinkley 6-0-35-0; Wilson 4-0-25-1.
ESSEX
D D J Robinson run out 83
S G Law c Dutch b Hewitt 13
*N Hussain c and b Martin 20
R C Irani lbw b Martin 0
S D Peters c Pooley b Dutch 54
†R J Rollins c Johnson b Dutch 0
D R Law c Hewitt b Johnson 1
D G Wilson not out 7
J E Brinkley not out 0
Extras (lb4, nb16) 20
Total (for 7, 40 overs) 198
Fall: 1-23, 2-88, 3-72, 4-179, 5-179, 6-182, 7-197.
Did not bat: M C Ilott, D M Cousins.
Bowling: Hewitt 8-0-30-1; Johnson 8-0-38-1; Martin 8-0-28-2; Dutch 8-0-31-2; Blanchett 7-0-25-0; Weekes 4-0-31-0; Shah 1-0-11-0.
Umpires: B Leadbeater and J Steel.

Notts v Gloucestershire
TRENT BRIDGE: Gloucestershire won by one run.
Gloucestershire won toss
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
G I Macmillan c Gie b Evans 16
R I Dawson c Noon b Tolley 17
*M W Alleyne c Dowman b Evans 4
A J Wright b Strang 5
M J Church b Bates 8
†R C Russell c Tolley b Franks 40
T H C Hancock run out 73
J Lewis b Franks 1
M C J Ball not out 10
C A Walsh not out 1
Extras (b8, w1) 10
Total (for 8, 40 overs) 185
Fall: 1-23, 2-43, 3-44, 4-58, 5-58, 6-156, 7-169, 8-183.
Did not bat: J M M Averis.
Bowling: Franks 8-0-36-2; Evans 8-2-31-2; Tolley 8-0-37-1; Strang 8-1-41-1; Bates 8-0-31-1.
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
M P Dowman c Wright b Alleyne 25
P R Pollard c Russell b Walsh 0
*P Johnson c Macmillan b Alleyne 23
G F Archer run out 28
N A Gie run out 57
C M Tolley c Russell b Averis 0
†W M Noon lbw b Averis 4
P A Strang b Walsh 10
P J Franks run out 15
K P Evans not out 4
Extras (lb8, w6, nb4) 20
Total (for 9, 40 overs) 194
Fall: 1-1, 2-50, 3-87, 4-109, 5-108, 6-115, 7-150, 8-177, 9-184.
Did not bat: R T Bates.
Bowling: Walsh 8-1-26-2; Lewis 8-2-31-0; Alleyne 8-0-37-2; Averis 8-1-33-2; Macmillan 3-0-18-0; Hancock 5-0-31-0.
Umpires: T E Jesty and G Sharp.

Somerset v Northants
TAUNTON: Northamptonshire won by seven wickets.
Somerset won toss
SOMERSET
M Burns b Capel 33
P C L Holloway b Swann 77
G D Rose c Capel b Snape 36
Mushtaq Ahmed c Bailey b Snape 10
M N Lathwell c Snape b Taylor 42
*P D Bowler c Warren b Rose 14
†R J Turner not out 7
K A Parsons c Swann b Rose 2
M E Trescothick not out 7
Extras (b5, lb6, w7) 18
Total (for 7, 40 overs) 246
Fall: 1-70, 2-137, 3-152, 4-167, 5-222, 6-229, 7-231.
To bat: A R Caddick, P S Jones.
Bowling: Rose 8-1-25-2; Penberthy 7-1-44-0; Swann 8-0-42-1; Capel 6-0-28-1; Taylor 8-0-59-1; Snape 6-0-37-2.
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
M B Loye c Turner b Trescothick 36
†R J Warren run out 27
*K M Curran b Trescothick 59
A L Penberthy not out 79
D J G Sales not out 28
Extras (b1, lb5, w11, nb4) 22
Total (for 3, 39.2 overs) 249
Fall: 1-62, 2-86, 3-210.
Did not bat: R J Bailey, D J Capel, G P Swann, J N Snape, J P Taylor, F A Rose.
Bowling: Parsons 3-1-14-0; Rose 7.2-0-63-0; Caddick 8-0-35-0; Trescothick 8-0-44-2; Mushtaq 8-0-66-0; Jones 5-0-30-0.
Umpires: R Palmer and M J Harris.

AXA Life League table

	P	W	L	D	NR	Tot
Yorkshire (10)	5	4	1	0	0	16
Warwicks (1)	4	3	0	0	1	14
Lancashire (3)	4	3	0	0	1	14
Middlesex (16)	5	3	1	0	1	14
Hampshire (15)	4	3	1	0	0	12
Kent (2)	4	3	1	0	0	12
Essex (7)	5	2	1	1	1	12
Durham (17)	5	2	1	1	1	12
Gloucs (11)	5	2	2	0	1	10
Derbyshire (14)	5	2	3	0	0	8
Sussex (18)	5	2	3	0	0	8
Somerset (8)	5	1	3	1	0	6
Northants (9)	4	1	2	0	1	6
Notts (12)	5	1	3	1	0	6
Worcs (6)	4	1	2	0	1	6
Leics (4)	4	1	3	0	0	4
Glamorgan (13)	5	0	4	0	1	2
Surrey (5)	4	0	3	0	1	2

● 1997 positions in brackets.

First-class matches

Second day of three: 11.30 today

Cambridge Univ v Durham
FENNERS: Durham, with nine second-innings wickets standing, are 337 runs ahead of Cambridge University.
Durham won toss
DURHAM – First Innings 270 for 3 dec (M A Gough 123, S Hutton 100).
CAMBRIDGE UNIV – First Innings (Overnight: 21 for 3)
J P Pyemont c Phillips b Symington 10
S J W Lewis lbw b Brown 3
W J House c and b Symington 17
*O J Hughes c Pratt b Killeen 17
B J Collins c and b Searle 36
P J Moffat lbw b Brown 10
J P Lowe lbw b Brown 0
P A Schaffter not out 0
Extras (lb5, w2, nb4) 11
Total (55.4 overs) 119
Fall: 4-25, 5-37, 6-61, 7-91, 8-117, 9-117.
Bowling: Brown 15-8-17-6; Killeen 11-1-47-1; Phillips 15-10-8-0; Symington 6-1-34-2; Searle 7.4-4-8-1.
DURHAM – Second Innings
*J E Morris not out 110
J A Daley c Pyemont b Loveridge 47
P D Collingwood not out 34
Extras (b4, lb1) 5
Total (for 1, 57 overs) 196
Fall: 1-128.
To bat: S Hutton, M A Gough, M J Symington, †A Pratt, N C Phillips, S J E Brown, N Killeen, J P Searle.
Bowling (to date): Lowe 6-1-21-0; Schaffter 7-3-11-0; Moffat 8-0-20-0; Loveridge 21-5-70-1; House 5-0-29-0; Hughes 9-1-28-0; Imraan Mohammad 1-0-3-0.
Umpires: J C Balderstone and H D Bird.

Oxford Univ v Warwickshire
THE PARKS: Warwickshire, with all their second-innings wickets standing, are 102 runs ahead of Oxford University.
Warwickshire won toss
WARWICKSHIRE – First Innings 307 for 7 dec (T Frost 111 no).
OXFORD UNIVERSITY – First Innings (Overnight: 26 for 1)
J A M Molins b Smith 73
N G Pritti c Datter b Welch 15
B W Byrne c Frost b Edmond 2
*J A G Fulton c Frost b Welch 5
C G R Lightfoot c Brown b Hemp 14
J T Parker c Datter b Welch 18
R Garland not out 56
†J P S Barnes c Brown b Hemp 19
S H Ferguson c Edmond b Smith 2
C R C Parker not out 1
Extras (b8, lb27, w4, nb22) 61
Total (for 9 dec, 93 overs) 269
Fall: 1-15, 2-66, 3-83, 4-98, 5-134, 6-140, 7-177, 8-253, 9-260.
Bowling: Giddins 17-8-31-0; Munton 13.4-5-17-1; Smith 15-4-26-2; Sheikh 12-0-19-0; Welch 14-2-24-3; Edmond 13-3-42-1, Hemp 14-2-68-2; Datter 2-0-8-0.
WARWICKSHIRE – Second Innings
D P Ostler not out 38
M J Powell not out 22
Extras (w4) 4
Total (for 0, 13 overs) 64
To bat: *N M K Smith, M A Sheikh, D L Hemp, D R Brown, G Welch, †T Frost, M D Edmond, E S H Giddins, T A Munton.
Bowling (to date): C R C Parker 3-0-20-0; Byrne 4-0-12-0; Ferguson 5-1-26-0; Lightfoot 1-0-8-0.
Umpires: N T Plews and N Cowley

Tour match

Kent v South Africa
One-day match
CANTERBURY: South Africa won by 98 runs.
Kent won toss
SOUTH AFRICA
G Kirsten lbw b Igglesden 13
G F J Liebenberg lbw b Cowdrey 72
J H Kallis c Fulton b Patel 81
D J Cullinan b Igglesden 48
*W J Cronje c Key b Patel 64
J N Rhodes b Igglesden 16
S M Pollock not out 11
†M V Boucher b Igglesden 3
Extras (lb7, w8) 15
Total (for 7, 50 overs) 290
Fall: 1-40, 2-155, 3-158, 4-268, 5-273, 6-290, 7-290.
Did not bat: A A Donald, L Klusener, P L Symcox.
Bowling: Igglesden 10-0-40-4; McCague 10-1-51-0; Thompson 10-0-69-0; Llong 5-0-26-0; Cowdrey 5-0-31-1; Patel 9-0-68-2.
KENT
D P Fulton c Symcox b Donald 16
R W T Key b Symcox 54
*T R Ward c Boucher b Cronje 1
M J Walker c Boucher b Donald 15
N J Llong b Symcox 31
G R Cowdrey b Kallis 28
†S C Willis c Klusener b Symcox 14
M M Patel c Cronje b Pollock 3
J B Thompson not out 3
M J McCague c Liebenberg b Cullinan 11
A P Igglesden c Boucher b Pollock 1
Extras (b1, lb3, w5, nb2) 11
Total (44.4 overs) 192
Fall: 1-55, 2-68, 3-97, 4-97, 5-142, 6-169, 7-172, 8-177, 9-180.
Bowling: Pollock 7.4-1-15-2; Klusener 8-0-40-0; Donald 8-0-28-2; Cronje 6-1-31-1; Symcox 10-1-41-3; Kallis 4-0-15-1; Cullinan 1-0-12-1.
Umpires: J H Hampshire and R Julian.
AON TROPHY: Southampton: Hampshire 285 for 7 (J S Laney 66, P R Whitaker 61), Glamorgan 145 (I Dawood 61). Hampshire won by 120 runs.

Starting today

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (First day of three, 11.0): Abbotsholme School: Derbyshire v Essex. Southampton: Hampshire v Glamorgan. Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire. Hove: Sussex v Worcestershire. Bingley: Yorkshire v Leicestershire.
AON TROPHY (One day, 11.0): Uxbridge: Middlesex v Minor Counties.

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Real must carry burden of history

Tonight's European Cup final has echoes of a golden era. **Glenn Moore** reports

FEW of those present at the Amsterdam ArenA tonight will remember the match, but all will know the legend. Glasgow, 1960, and 11 figures in white playing like angels, their silky movement defeating even the staccato nature of contemporary film as they glided across the turf, bewildering and bewitching the mortals of Eintracht Frankfurt.

It was the greatest of all European Cup finals, captivating 135,000 at Hampden Park and millions more beyond. Thirty-eight years later the memory continues to both inspire and handicap Real Madrid, a golden yoke from the past weighing down the present.

That 1960 success was Madrid's fifth in five years of a then-embryonic competition. It has since become the most prized and lucrative of club competitions, partly due to the glittering standard set by Real. But they have won it only once more, in 1966. In the intervening years they have reached just one final, in 1981, when they lost to Liverpool and a rare goal from Alan Kennedy.

Now, as then, the successors to Di Stefano, Gento, Kopa and Puskas must defeat the masters of the present if they are to emulate the magicians of the past. Juventus, winners in 1996 and runners-up last season, stand in Madrid's way as they attempt to consummate the quest which has dragged them to the verge of bankruptcy – so desperate are the club to recapture former glories that they now stand around £70m in debt.

It is the classic final. A match like this, capturing the imagination of sponsors, television companies and football romantics alike, is the *raison d'être* behind the formation of the Champions' League. Amsterdam is revelling in its fortune with more than 7,000 posters, billboards and flags proclaiming "the football capital of Europe" adorning the canalside paths and 17th century squares. Out of town the futuristic ArenA, still in its first season but with yet another relaid pitch, is tingling with as much expectation as can be mustered in such an isolated site.

Juventus start clear favourites, a view supported by both Alex Ferguson and Terry Venables. "They are well pumped up for it. They have been far more consistent this season," said Ferguson, whose Manchester United side came within five minutes of putting them out.

"Juventus will win, they are the better side," added Venables. "I don't think Real have enough to offer." Both managers picked out Alessandro del Piero as the likely matchwinner. The Juventus forward reserves his best for a competition in which he already holds the scoring record. Alongside him is Filippo Inzaghi, with whom he has shared 60 goals this season. Behind is the outstanding French playmaker Zinedine Zidane, his more prosaic but still valuable compatriot Didier Deschamps, and Edgar Davids, a 1995 winner with Ajax.

Real also have their strength in attack, with Raul and Fernando Morientes, respectively Spain's youngest and newest talents, and Yugoslavia's Predrag Mijatovic, keeping Davor Suker on the bench. They are supported by an impressive polyglot midfield – Christian Karembeu, Clarence Seedorf and Fernando Redondo – backed by the wondrous left foot of Roberto Carlos. Another Brazilian, Savio, an £8m mid-season signing, is likely to be on the bench having only just recovered from injury.

The doubts are about Madrid's defensive organisation and morale. They have not won away since November and the coach, the German Jupp Heynckes, is being pushed towards the door after just one year. Real may be in the final but, in the league, they trailed in fourth behind their bitter rivals, Barcelona.

Real may thus bring in the veteran Sanchis and play three, rather than the customary four, at the back, with Christian Panucci and Roberto Carlos pushing forward. Juventus could adopt a similar formation to counter Real's flying full-backs. Given the stakes both Heynckes and Marcello Lippi may, however, decide to stick with their tried-and-tested back fours.

Juventus, having already qualified for next year's competition after winning the *Serie A* title, will be more relaxed though they, too, have a motivation: last year's surprise defeat by Borussia Dortmund.

The only other Amsterdam Champions' Cup final was in the old Olympic stadium, in 1962, when Benfica beat Real Madrid 5-3. Madrid may well return home empty-handed again, except for the haunting company of the ghosts of the past and the worrying debts of the present.

Juventus (probable; 4-3-1-2): Peruzzi; Torricelli, Montero, Iuliano, Birindelli; Di Livio, Deschamps, Davids; Zidane; Inzaghi, Del Piero.
Real Madrid (probable; 4-3-1-2): Illgner; Panucci, Hierro, Sanz, Roberto Carlos; Karembeu, Seedorf, Redondo; Raul; Morientes, Mijatovic.
Referee: H Krug (Germany).

● *Fabio Capello* has been sacked as the coach of Milan, after a meeting late on Monday with the club's owner, Silvio Berlusconi. Milan finished the season in 10th place in Italy's *Serie A*.

THE DREAM FINAL LINE-UP

Juventus

1 Angelo Peruzzi (Country: Italy, age: 28, 22 caps) Ball-boy in Rome when Liverpool won 1984 final against Roma on penalties. Italy's No 1.
3 Moreno Torricelli (Italy, 28, 5) Attacking defender. Long mane makes him instantly recognizable.
4 Paolo Montero (Uruguay, 26, 26) *Only the second Uruguayan to play* for Juve, and the first since 1942, has been joined by three compatriots.
13 Mark Iuliano (Italy, 24, 0) Likely replacement for Ciro Ferrara, he prefers to wear "Juliano" on shirt.
15 Alessandro Birindelli (Italy, 23, 0) Quick and versatile defender signed from Empoli in summer.
7 Angelo di Livio (Italy, 31, 20) Sent off against England in Rome for foul on Sol Campbell after being booked. Nicknamed the "Little Soldier".
14 Didier Deschamps (France, 29, 67) French captain once derided as a water-carrier by Eric Cantona. Workmanlike but talented.
26 Edgar Davids (Netherlands, 25, 9) Signed for £3.4m from Milan in mid-season. His response: "Milan made a big error when they sold me".
21 Zinedine Zidane (France, 25, 31) *Rated best midfielder in Europe* by Alex Ferguson. Shown tendency to tire.
9 Filippo Inzaghi (Italy, 24, 4) Repaid £9m fee with 27 goals so far. Can be lazy but a born poacher. Age 24.
10 Alessandro del Piero (Italy, 23, 19) Ten goals in this season's Champions' Cup alone. "Golden Boy" has seen off Baggio, Vialli and Boksic.

Real Madrid

25 Bodo Illgner (Country: Germany, age: 31, 54 caps) Signed from Cologne because of his height in 1996.
17 Christian Panucci (Italy, 25, 7) *Athletic attacking defender.* Member of Milan's 1994 European Cup team.
4 Fernando Hierro (Spain, 30, 55) Captain who began season with freak injury after putting foot through a manhole cover escaping paparazzi.
19 Fernando Sanz (Spain, 24, 0) Son of the president gradually winning over fans – applauded off after being dismissed against Real Betis.
3 Roberto Carlos (Brazil, 25, 25) Brazilian owner of most awesome left-foot in football – deadly at free-kicks.
22 Christian Karembeu (France, 27, 30) New Caledonian born, he made high-profile protest against French nuclear tests in Pacific.
10 Clarence Seedorf (Netherlands, 22, 25) Born in Surinam, achieved fame at Ajax and initial riches at Sampdoria. Attacking role under Heynckes.
6 Fernando Redondo (Argentina, 28, 24) *Long-running row over length of* his hair may cost him World Cup place.
7 Raul (Spain, 20, 12) Spain's answer to Michael Owen and David Beckham rolled into one. Led to team being tagged "Raul Madrid".
15 Fernando Morientes (Spain, 22, 1) Two goals in the opening five minutes on his international debut.
8 Predrag Mijatovic (Yugoslavia, 29, 36) Struggling to match 1995-96 season though scored six in country's 7-1 World Cup play-off win over Hungary.

Real Madrid's Clarence Seedorf shows his skills in training in Amsterdam yesterday Photograph: Reuters

Kendall survives crisis talks

By Alan Nixon and Rupert Metcalf

THE Everton manager Howard Kendall made a £3.5m bid for the Bolton Wanderers midfielder Alan Thompson yesterday as he tried to buy his way out of trouble.

Kendall made his offer after a crisis meeting with the Goodison Park club's chairman, Peter Johnson, about his future. The beleaguered Everton manager, who hopes that Johnson will back him in his spending plans, knows that Aston Villa, Leeds and Tottenham are also pursuing Thompson.

Kendall has denied that his job was on the line at his meeting with Johnson. "I had a chat with the chairman and he's not hinted at anything like that," he said. "I'm just getting on with my job and trying to plan for the pre-season and next season."

Everton are also set to take Alex Cleland on a free transfer from Rangers when his contract at Ibrox expires next month. The 27-year-old Scotland B international will be the fourth right-back Kendall has signed since his return to Goodison.

Sheffield Wednesday have hit back at Ron Atkinson's outburst after his dismissal as the Hillsborough manager. Atkinson has claimed he was "betrayed by weak men" after the chairman, Dave Richards, told him he would not be offered a new contract – even though he had kept the club in the Premiership.

Richards said he was not impressed by Wednesday's finish which saw them win just two of their last nine games. "We've been strong and not weak," he said. "Obviously Ron's pride has been hurt and I can understand how he's feeling. But we've taken a decision which we feel is necessary for the long-term future of the club. Ron only wanted to commit himself for one more year, but we're looking at the long-term picture."

The Middlesbrough midfielder Craig Hignett, a free agent this summer, is to join Aberdeen on a lucrative two-year contract.

West Ham have denied that their French goalkeeper, Bernard Lama, has joined his former club, Paris St-Germain. The Hammers plan talks to keep Lama at Upton Park.

Julian Joachim, the former Leicester striker, has turned down the offer of a new five-year contract at Aston Villa.

Rangers' new coach, Dick Advocaat, is bringing the Dutch international left-back Arthur Numan to Ibrox from his former club, PSV Eindhoven for £5m – a record Scottish fee.

The Republic of Ireland have called up five uncapped players for Saturday's friendly with Mexico in Dublin: Dean Kiely (Bury), Richard Dunne (Everton), Gary Doherty (Luton), Gerard Crossley (Celtic) and Barry Quinn (Coventry).

Tottenham Hotspur have announced increases of up to 12 per cent in season-ticket prices for the 1998/99 season. Despite relegation from the Premiership, Bolton are also raising their admission prices.

Scottish FA's £20m Sky TV deal

SCOTTISH football signed a four-year £20m contract with Sky Sports yesterday.

Under the deal Sky will broadcast exclusive live coverage of all home internationals including European Championship and World Cup qualifiers up to the end of the 2001-02 season. Channel 5 already has an agreement to screen all Scotland's away games in the *Euro 2000* qualifiers. "The financial boost is significant," the Scottish Football Association president, Jack McGinn, said. "It will allow fans to view matches involving the national teams and matches from the Tennents Scottish Cup over the next four years."

Highlights of Scotland's games will be shown on terrestrial television.

Larkham strives to replace Lynagh

Rugby Union

IT IS now more than three years since Michael Lynagh retired from international rugby, but still Australia are finding those golden boots of his impossible to fill. Yesterday they turned to Stephen Larkham, normally a full-back, to take his shot at the troubled position for next month's Test in Brisbane against England.

Larkham has made his international mark as a No 15 or a winger but the Australian coach, Rod Macqueen, is praying that he can make a successful transition to stand-off and relieve his biggest headache. "We're looking at a long-term solution," Macqueen said. "There is a bit of a risk but there's a risk with whoever we put there."

England will be the first of Australia's 12 Tests this season and as the tour party leaving these shores will have a distinctly rookie feel to it the selectors "down under" are obviously taking the chance to experiment. Whether Larkham will still be at No 10 when Scotland arrive a few weeks later for their two Tests remains to be seen.

With Larkham selected at fly-half, Matthew Burke returns to full-back after recovering from a groin injury. Australia have tried Scott Bowen, Pat Howard, David Knox, Tim Horan and Elton Flatley to replace Lynagh but all have fallen short of the genius's mark.

Macqueen, no doubt, would love to pick Lynagh again and the coach showed his liking for the old campaigners when he gave the former captain, Phil Kearns, the chance to win his 50th cap after a wait of three years. Kearns was out for almost 18 months after injuring his knee in 1996. "It feels like the first cap, I'm absolutely thrilled," Kearns said.

A new face will be the New South Wales second rower Tom Bowman, who wins his first cap after touring Argentina with the Wallabies last season.

AUSTRALIA (v England, Brisbane, 6 June): M Burke; B Tune, D Herbert, T Horan, J Roff; S Larkham, G Gregan; T Kefu, D Wilson, M Cockbain, J Eales, T Bowman, A Blades, P Kearns, R Harry. **Replacements:** C Whitaker, N Grey, J Little, W Ofahengaue, O Finegan, D Crowley, J Paul.

WORLD XV (v Newcastle, Twickenham, 6 June): P Vaccari (It); C Williams (SA), P Sella (capt), S Glas, P Bernat-Salles (all France); D Knox (Aus), A Pichot (Arg); C Blades (Aus), R Ibanez (Fr), M Hurter (SA), H Strydom (SA), W Waugh (Aus), M Giovanelli (It), T Strauss (SA), F Pienaar (SA). **Replacements:** A Thomas (Wales), G Leaupepe (W Samoa), E Rush (NZ), S Latu (Japan), T Coker (Aus), D Garforth, R Cockerill (both Eng).

● Six Gloucester players – including Raphael Saint-André, the brother of the France wing Philippe – are leaving Kingsholm as the director of rugby, Richard Hill, makes room for new arrivals, who are expected to include Simon Mannix, Sale's New Zealand stand-off.

Sporting Digest

Badminton

THOMAS CUP MEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (Hong Kong): Group B: Malaysia 4 S Korea 1.
UBER CUP WOMEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (Hong Kong): Group B: Indonesia 3 South Korea 2; England 4 Netherlands 1 (Eng names first): J Mann bt J Meulendijks 12-11 11-8; D Kellogg lost to B Beenhakker 3-11 7-11; S Hardaker and J Davies bt N van Hooren and L Jorissen 17-16 15-11; T Hallam bt L Janssen 11-3 3-11 11-7; Kellogg and J Goode bt M Hoogland and E Van Den Heuvel 15-1 10-15 15-6.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Seattle 9 Toronto 4; Oakland 14 Chicago White Sox 0; Tampa Bay 5 Baltimore 3; Detroit 11 Anaheim 2.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Atlanta 4 Houston 0; Florida 7 St Louis 3; Arizona 9 Pittsburgh 2; Colorado 8 Milwaukee 5.

Basketball

Worthing Bears are targeting the NBA scout Steve Trumbo, currently with Phoenix Suns, as their next coach.
NBA PLAY-OFFS Final: (Best-of-seven series) Western Conference: Utah 99 Los Angeles Lakers 95 (Utah lead series 2-0).
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: (Helsinki) Preliminary round: Iceland 69 Switzerland 80; Ireland 56 Cyprus 57.

Boxing

Lennox Lewis, the WBC heavyweight champion, has been offered a five-fight deal worth £20m with the American cable network HBO.
Mark Prince will defend his IBF intercontinental light-heavyweight title in Bristol on Saturday, 30 May.

Cricket

Former Australian Test cricketer David Hookes has been accused of "tasteless" anti-semitic jibes by the country's Jewish community after his comments about one of Australia's wealthiest men, Joe Gutnick.
TOUR MATCH (Colombo, second day of three): New Zealand 274 (A C Parore 53) and 7 for 2; Sri Lanka 284.

Cycling

Sergei Gontchar of Ukraine took the pink jersey as the overall Giro d'Italia leader from Alex Zülle by taking advantage of a spill which split the group in two just before the final kilometer of yesterday's third stage. Gontchar, who trailed Zülle by one second in the standings, found himself in the leading group while Zülle finished in the second group. The stage was won by Italy's Nicola Minali after a crowded sprint.
GIRO D'ITALIA Third Stage (Rapallo to Forte dei Marmi 196kms): 1 N Minali (It, Riso Scotti) 4 hr 44 min, 34 sec; 2 M Strazzer (It, Cantina Tollo) same time; 3 F Arazzi It, Ros Mary) same time; 4 A Petacchi (It, Scrigno) same time; 5 S Martinello (It, Team Polti) same time. Overall standings: 1 S Gontchar (Ukr, Cantina Tollo) 12 hr 41 min 32 sec; 2 M Bartoli (It, Asics) +9 sec; 3 M Piccoli (It, Brescialat) +12; 4 M Velo (It, Mercatone Uno) +12; 5 A Zülle (Swit, Festina) +12.

Football

Tim Flowers, the England and Blackburn Rovers goalkeeper, will miss the first two games of the 1998-99 Premiership season after being sent off for making comments to the assistant referee while warming up during a match at Coventry.
Liverpool have won the Premier League's Fair Play award for the fourth consecutive year.
The Swindon Town goalkeeper Fraser Digby, 31, is among eight players handed free transfers by manager Steve McMahon.
Sporting Lisbon have sacked coach Carlos Manuel after the club finished fourth in the Portuguese league.
The Danish midfielder Martin Johansen has parted company with Coventry after making only one start for the Premiership club since signing from FC Copenhagen last summer.
NIGERIA PROVISIONAL WORLD CUP SQUAD: Goalkeepers: Bankole (Crewe Alexandra), Opara (Orlando Pirates), Alaibuike (Jasper United), Baruwa (Sion). Defenders: Oparaku (Kapellen, Bel), Okechukwu (Fenerbahce), West (Internazionale), Babayaro (Chelsea), Shekpoke (Reggiana), Obielowu (Go Ahead Eagles), Babalade (Lucky Goldstar Cheetahs, S Kor), Okafor (Kansas City Wizards). Midfielders: Lawal (Roda JC Kerkrade), Oliseh (Ajax), Okocha (Fenerbahce), Ofigwe (Kaiserslautern), Musa (Saabrücken), Okpara (Strasbourg), Adepoju (Real Sociedad), Oruma (Lens), Obiora (Anderlecht). Forwards: George (Real Betis), Babangida (Ajax), Kanu (Internazionale), Ikpeba (Monaco), Amokachi (Besiktas), Yekini (FC Zurich), Amunike (Barcelona), Onwuzuruike (Heerenveen).
RUSSIA SQUAD (Friendlies in Poland, 27 May, and Georgia, 30 May): Goalkeepers: Filimonov (Spartak Moscow), Ovchinnikov (Benfica), Charchesov (Tirol Innsbruck). Defenders: Pegayev (Alania Vladikavkaz), Kovtun (Dynamo Moscow), Chugainov (Lokomotiv Moscow), Onopko (Oviedo), Khlestov (Spartak Moscow), Borzenkov (Rotor Volgograd), Tetradze (Roma). Midfielders: Gerasimenko (Dynamo Kiev), Tikhonov, Alenichev, Teymbelar (all Spartak Moscow), Semak (CSKA Moscow). Forwards: Radimov (Real Zaragoza), Beschastnykh (Racing Santander), Simutenkov (Reggiana), Zubko (Rotor Volgograd).
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (Revised squad for friendly v Mexico, Dublin, Saturday): Given (Newcastle), Kiely (Bury), Kelly (Leeds), Breen (Coventry), Babb (Liverpool), Dunne (Everton), Doherty (Luton), Fleming (Middlesbrough), Farrelly (Everton), Crossley (Celtic), Keane (Wolves), Duff (Blackburn), Harte (Leeds), Connolly (Feyenoord), Kennedy (Wimbledon), Carsley (Derby), Delap (Derby), Quinn (Coventry).
TOULON UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT Group B: Brazil 1 China 1; Germany 0 Portugal 1. (*China and Portugal qualify for semi-finals*).
INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY (Seoul): South Korea 0 Jamaica 0.

Golf

Haddington's Lesley Nicholson shot a brilliant round of five-under-par 69 to break a 30-year-old record in the first qualifying round of the Scottish Women's Amateur Championship at North Berwick yesterday.
WELSH LADIES AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP (Ashburnham): Semi-finals: R Morgan (Monmouth) bt S Mountford (Wrexham) 7 & 6; L Davis (Conwy) bt H Lawson (Bull Bay) one hole. Final: L Davis bt R Morgan one hole.

Motor racing

Ferrari have pledged to use only Goodyear tires following speculation that the team might switch to another brand during the current Formula One World Championship.

Rugby Union

The England Under-21 side will play a France Youth team in the curtain-raiser to Saturday's Sanyo Cup match at Twickenham.
ENGLAND UNDER-21 SQUAD: J Fabien (Exeter); B Cohen (Northampton), M Oliver (Orrell), J Pritchard (Bath), P Sampson (Wasps); A Yapp (Bedford), M Wood (Wasps); V Hartland (Coventry), A Long (Bath, capt), E Webb (Leicester), J Beardshaw (Wasps), J Winterbottom (Wasps), J Cockle (Moseley), R Beattie (Newcastle), J Worsley (Wasps). Replacements: K Sorrell (Saracens), J Brown (Coventry), J Bramhall (Northampton), T Robinson (Bristol), R Nebbett (Harlequins), T Collier (Harlequins), S Mills (Sale).

Sumo

SUMMER GRAND TOURNAMENT (Tokyo) Tenth day: Asanosho (won 5, lost 5) bt Kirikaiyama (juryo) (7-3); Kyokushuzan (7-3) bt Dejima (7-3); Asanowaka (4-6) bt Misizumi (4-6); Toki (6-4) bt Kotoryu (5-5); Kaiho (7-3) bt Higonoumi (5-5); Wakanosato (6-4) bt Wakanojo (5-5); Ganyu (5-5) bt Kotoinazuma (5-5); Gojoro (4-6) bt Terao (5-5); Tochinowaka (5-5) bt Akinoshu (1-9); Asahiyutaka (5-5) bt Kitakachidoki (3-7); Hamanoshima (5-5) bt Kotonowaka (1-9); Tamakasuga (3-7) bt Tosanoumi (3-7); Aogiyama (1-9) bt Minatofuji (3-7); Chiyotaikai (5-5) bt Tochinonada (4-6); Kotonishiki (8-2) bt Akinoshima (7-3); Takanonami (7-3) bt Kaio (4-6); Musashimaru (8-2) bt Takatoriki (8-2); Wakanohana (8-2) bt Musoyama (2-8); Akebono (7-3) bt Oginishiki (5-5); Shikishima (6-4) bt Takanohana (7-3).

Swimming

Michelle de Bruin, who won three titles at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, could face Fina's doping panel this week after one of her drug samples was apparently tampered with.

Tennis

Croatia's Mirjana Lucic has withdrawn from the French Open starting on 25 May because of a fever. Lucic, ranked 33, will be replaced by Israel's Anna Smashnova.
MEN'S GRAND PRIX (St Pölten, Aut): First round: T Muster (Aut) bt C Trimmel (Aut) 4-6 6-1 7-5; V Spadea (US) bt K Carlsen (Den) 7-5 7-5; D Nargiso (It) bt H Gumy (Arg) 6-4 6-2; G Blanco (Sp) bt M Meneschincheri (It) 6-3 7-6; JA Marin (Sp) bt N Lapentti (Ec) 7-5 6-3; A Gaudenzi (It) bt J M Gambill (US) 6-3 7-5; M Filippini (Uru) bt G Raoux (Fr) 6-2 6-2; F Clavet (Sp) bt S Campbell (US) 6-3 6-1; S Schalken (Neth) bt J A Viloca (Sp) 6-1 6-3; O Carrano (Sp) bt M Hipfl (Aut) 6-4 6-3; B Black (Zim) bt P Rafter (Aus) 6-3 6-4.
WORLD TEAM CUP (Düsseldorf): Spain bt France 2-1: C Moya (Sp) bt C Pioline (Fr) 6-1 6-1; F Santoro (Fr) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 6-2 1-6 6-0; T Carbonell/F Roig (Sp) bt Santoro/O Delaitre (Fr) 6-4 6-2. Germany bt Slovakia 2-1: T Haas (Ger) bt D Hrbaty (Slovak) 7-6 7-6; K Kucera (Slovak) bt N Kiefer (Ger) 6-4 6-2; B Becker/D Prinosil (Ger) bt Kucera/Hrbaty 6-4 4-6 6-4.
VILLA DE MADRID OPEN (Madrid): First round: G Leon (Sp) bt R McQuillan (Aus) 6-4 6-4; M Babel (Ger) bt A Salas (Sp) 7-5 6-3; B Schett (Aut) bt E Makarova (Rus) 6-3 6-1; L Golarsa (It) bt D Chladkova (Cz Rep) 6-1 6-1; P Schnyder (Swit) bt K Brandi (US) 6-0 ret; M L Serna (Sp) bt Y Yoshida (Japan) 6-1 6-4; T Snyder (US) bt F Labat (Arg) 7-5 6-3. T Garbin (It) bt N Pratt (Aus) 7-5 6-3; J Kandarr (Ger) bt C Torrens-Valero (Sp) 2-6 6-4 6-1; C Rubin (US) bt P Stoyanova (Bul) 6-3 6-1; K Po (US) bt P Hy Boulais (Can) 2-6 6-4 6-1; A Smashnova (Isr) bt V Ruano (Sp) 7-6 7-5; M A Sanchez (Sp) bt N Moraro (Sp) 7-5 6-1; B Schwartz (Aut) bt K Boogert (Neth) 6-1 6-2.
STRASBOURG OPEN (France): Singles, first round: F Li (Chin) bt E Loit (Fr) 6-3 6-2; A Cocheteux (Fr) bt R Grande (It) 2-6 6-3 6-2; C Cristea (Rom) bt A Glass (Ger) 6-4 6-4; E Likhovtseva (Rus) bt Y Basuki (Indo) 6-1 7-6; S Reeves (US) bt K A Guse (Aus) 5-7 7-5 6-1; H Nagyova (Slovak) bt M de Swardt (SA) 3-6 6-4 6-2.

Today's fixtures

Football

EUROPEAN CUP FINAL
Juventus v Real Madrid (7.45) (*at Amsterdam ArenA*)
IRISH UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT
Northern Ireland v Scotland (5.0) (*at MacSharry Park, Sligo*)

Rugby Union

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP ONE Play-off: Rotherham v London Irish (7.0).

Speedway

ELITE LEAGUE: Kings Lynn v Ipswich (7.45); Poole v Swindon (7.30).
PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Hull v Edinburgh (7.30).

TODAY'S NUMBER

10,000

The number of candles a Romanian football fan has lit in one of the country's largest cathedrals to help his team in the World Cup. He also intends to attend their matches dressed as either Napoleon, Charlie Chaplin, or a traditional Romanian clown.

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WORCESTER	972	982
BATH	973	983
TOWCESTER (E)	974	984
NEWTON ABBOT (E)	975	985

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Racing results

BEVERLEY

2.25: 1. POCO (A Mackay) 6-1; 2. Sweet As A Nut 9-1; 3. Granny Helen 9-4 fav. 10 ran. ½, nk. (M Channon, Upper Lambourn). Tote: £8.20; £2.40, £2.80, £1.70. DF: £20.00. CSF: £58.18, Trio: £19.40.

2.55: 1. FLOW BY (G Carter) 4-1; 2. Philelated 5-2; 3. Angelina 5-4 fav. 6 ran. 1¾, hd. (J Dunlop, Arundel). Tote: £5.80; £1.90, £1.80. DF: £9.80. CSF: £14.39. NR: Baby Spice.

3.25: 1. SICK AS A PARROT (F Lynch) 10-1; 2. Sualtach 6-1; 3. Yavana's Pace 8-1. 8 ran. 11-4 fav Out Of Sight. ¾, 1¼. (C Dwyer, Newmarket). Tote: £10.00; £2.30, £1.90, £1.90. DF: £36.40. CSF: £68.93. Tricast: £475.77.

3.55: 1. WINSOME GEORGE (N Kennedy) 11-2; 2. Chlo-Jo 4-1 jt fav; 3. Go Positive 25-1. 12 ran. 4-1 jt fav Last Knight (5th). 3, 2. (C Fairhurst, Middleham). Tote: £8.40; £1.80, £1.50, £3.50. DF: £10.50. CSF: £25.57. Tricast: £479.51. Trio: £133.00.

4.25: 1. FOREST ENDING (K Fallon) 1-2 fav; 2. Proffler 14-1; 3. Moulin Rouge 25-1. 17 ran. 4, 1¾. (H Cecil, Newmarket). Tote: £1.50; £1.30, £3.50, £7.00. DF: £6.80. CSF: £8.81. Trio: £83.00. NR: General Monck.

4.55: 1. ACIDANTHERA (D Harrison) 4-1; 2. Foxie Lady 6-4 fav; 3. Notley Park 14-1. 10 ran. Hd, 2½. (J Fanshawe, Newmarket). Tote: £4.80; £1.40, £1.10, £3.90. DF: £5.30. CSF: £9.62. Tricast: £73.08. Trio: £41.40. NRs: Hajal, Sabo Sonic.

Placepot: £84.80. Quadpot: £26.20.
Place 6: £124.38. Place 5: £63.35.

GOODWOOD

2.10: 1. EVANDER (T Quinn) 4-11 fav; 2. Marghan 11-1; 3. Highly Pleased 6-1. 5 ran. 1, 2½. (P Cole, Whatcombe). Tote: £1.40; £1.10, £3.30. DF: £4.30. CSF: £4.30. NR: Dahomey.

2.40: 1. ADJUTANT (M Tebbutt) 3-1 fav; 2. Young Josh 8-1; 3. Titan 16-1. 10 ran. Sht-hd, 2. (B Meehan, Lambourn). Tote: £3.20; £1.50, £2.40, £3.80. DF: £22.50. CSF: £25.38. Tricast: £312.06. Trio: £108.70. NR: Apache Red. After a stewards' inquiry, the first two placings were reversed.

3.10: 1. RABAH (Pat Eddery) 15-2; 2. Mutamam 11-10 fav; 3. Pegnitz 14-1. 6 ran. ½, nk. (J Dunlop, Arundel). Tote: £6.50; £2.30, £1.50. DF: £5.40. CSF: £13.58.

3.40: 1. CHINA RED (M Hills) 10-1; 2. Conspicuous 6-1; 3. Star Talent 3-1 fav. 12 ran. Hd, ¾. (J Hills, Lambourn). Tote: £11.70; £3.20, £2.30, £1.40. DF: £35.70. CSF: £59.10. Tricast: £204.88. Trio: £59.60. NR: Autumn Cover. After a stewards' inquiry, Volley, who finished first, was disqualified and placed fourth.

4.10: 1. CHOTO MATE (R Hughes) 11-8 fav; 2. Bodfari Times 2-1; 3. Jade Chequer 11-4. 4 ran. 1½, ½. (R Hannon, East Everleigh). Tote: £2.40. DF: £1.90. CSF: £4.10.

4.45: 1. RAMBLING BEAR (D Sweeney) 7-2; 2. To The Roof 5-2 fav; 3. Thanksgiving 14-1. 7 ran. 2½, 4. (M Blanshard, Lambourn). Tote: £4.50; £1.30, £2.10. DF: £4.80. CSF: £10.60.

Jackpot: £10,130.90 - part won. £12,842.00 pool carried forward to Goodwood today.
Placepot: £16.80. Quadpot: £11.20.
Place 6: £16.51. Place 5: £13.57.

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England decide on split-level management

Cricket

By David Llewellyn

CRICKET is definitely turning into two ball games — Tests and one-day internationals. Having appointed different captains for each form of the game two weeks ago, with Alec Stewart put in charge of the Test side and his Surrey colleague, Adam Hollioake, handed the leadership of the Texaco Trophy team, the England and Wales Cricket Board yesterday underlined their divergent thinking by announcing separate tour managers for the England squads in Australia this winter.

The former England captain and selector, Graham Gooch, takes over from Bob Bennett as tour manager for the Ashes Test series Down Under, which gets under way in early November, while the present chairman of selectors, David Graveney, will be in charge of the squad that tackles the one-day series in January 1999. Graveney will also manage the one-day squad for the International Cricket Council Knockout Trophy in Bangladesh this October and the World Cup in England next year.

Graveney said: "It would be silly for us not make use of Graham's capabilities and it is good to have a selector out there with the tour party to maintain continuity." The ECB international teams director, Simon Pack, explained: "Having separate tour managers is designed to reflect the fact that increasingly the two England squads draw on different personnel."

There was some different personnel practising at The Oval yesterday before the opening Texaco Trophy match against South Africa tomorrow. Among them the Sussex captain, Chris Adams, who has lifted the south coast club this season after after joining from Derbyshire. By a freak of the fixtures, Adams misses Sussex's match against his former county at Horsham this week, and he said with a grin: "I'm a great believer in destiny. I just hope they stuff Derbyshire." On his call-up he added: "I suppose it has come a lot more quickly than I anticipated. I think Sussex feel that and they probably have mixed feelings, because I won't be able to captain the side, but I am sure Michael Bevan and coach Peter Moores will carry on the good work."

There is a bit of a collection of comeback kings headed by the Leicestershire all-rounder, Chris Lewis. His own recalls number umpteen. His last appearance for England was at The Oval in 1996 when he turned up late on the fourth day and having claimed that he had suffered a puncture was promptly told by the then chairman of selectors, Ray Illingworth, that he would not be considered for the subsequent one-day series against Pakistan. In fact he has not played at all for England in the intervening 21 months.

Yesterday he was first on the ground, working out fully half an hour before the rest of the squad drifted on to the outfield, and when the first of them did emerge from the dressing-rooms Lewis was seen wagging an admonishing finger at them and then pointing to an imaginary wrist watch.

Another of the comeback men is Surrey's Alistair Brown, who was dropped after scoring a hundred two years against India, and returned to modest success in Sharjah at the start of last winter only to find himself out in the cold when Michael Atherton was named captain for the Test and one-day series in the Caribbean.

"This is the third time I've come back," Brown said, "but I am not trying to prove people wrong by playing poorly to get dropped only to come back in. In fact, this year I have started the season well. I am happy with my Championship form and my one-day form is very positive." That echoes the mood of the whole squad.

● Steve Randell, the international umpire, appeared in Hobart Magistrates Court yesterday to face 11 charges of indecent assault against young girls. Randell, a 42-year-old teacher, has stood in 36 Test matches and 88 limited overs internationals and is on the International Cricket Council's umpiring panel. He is due to umpire the opening Test between England and South Africa in England next month. The charges relate to allegations dating back to 1982, the court heard.

Hoddle reads Gascoigne the riot act

Football

By Clive White

WHILE Paul Durkin, England's World Cup referee, was putting the national team straight on what they could and could not get away at the forthcoming French finals, away from the lush playing fields of Bisham Abbey yesterday Glenn Hoddle was brandishing what looked distinctly like a yellow card – or in other words a final caution – at his wayward star Paul Gascoigne.

The England coach declared himself "disappointed" and "upset" about the player's nocturnal habits of the past week, which has seen him out nightclubbing with Rob Stewart and enjoying a beer and a kebab in the wee small hours of the morning with his radio and TV pal, Chris Evans.

Irreplaceable or not, Gascoigne was left in no doubt of what fate might befall him should he transgress again. In a thinly veiled threat to the Middlesbrough midfielder, Hoddle said that he had told the player "forcibly" what he thought of it all. "He's disappointed me," he said. "I've told him that, he knows it and he's apologised."

While Gascoigne may have been full of remorse in Hoddle's company he was, though, quite unrepentant when facing the press, during which his loathing of them was all too obvious. "I've never let anybody down when I've put on an England shirt," he said. A fact with which Hoddle concurred. "But what I do outside the game, then that's my problem."

Gascoigne should be grateful he does not play for Saudi Arabia, whom England face on Saturday in their last home game before the finals. Saeed Al-Owairan, the Saudi equivalent of Gazza in both talent and temperament, was once similarly caught with a drink in his hand – only for him it resulted in a 14-month suspension rather than a mere admonishment.

Hard as it may be to envisage Hoddle as a disciplinarian in the Alex Ferguson mould, or even Terry Venables come to that, he has evidently read the riot act to the player who still represents England's best chance of coming home from France bathed in glory. Even Gascoigne, who clearly did not thank the England hierarchy for making him face the press, admitted that Hoddle was "angry" about his latest extra-curricular activities, which predictably received massive exposure in the popular press.

It sometimes seems as if Hoddle spends most of his working life defending England's prize midfielder. He has certainly had to do it to a greater extent then any other England manager. He made the point that he could only control Gascoigne, or any player, while he was "under my wing", though he was quick not to attach any blame to his club manager, Bryan Robson.

"No England manager can control the players," Hoddle said. "Now he's under my wing, hopefully for the next seven weeks. I've had a long chat with Paul and he understands where I'm coming from. I've been disappointed with what I've seen and it's up to him to meet me halfway."

By that, Hoddle clearly meant the Middlesbrough player's lifestyle must change. When asked how fit the player was, Hoddle replied, somewhat despairingly: "He's still 40 per cent away from full match fitness, but we will put him on a special diet and I am confident he will eventually be fitter than he has been in years.

"The problem is that Paul has had four excellent performances for us but he hasn't played since Rome. In between internationals, he doesn't realise the injuries come if you don't keep your body in check."

Hoddle was not prepared to excuse him on the grounds of pressure because of who he was any more then he would several other high-profile players – he cited David Beckham and Steve McManaman as two other players who were constantly in the spotlight.

Bobby Robson, the former England manager, has condemned the company that Gascoigne keeps, and Hoddle stopped only just short of doing the same. He took relief from the fact, though, that they would not be around to lead him astray in France – "unless we get Rod in for a little concert in the hotel," he joked.

The dangerous time for Hoddle is the five days following England's training camp at La Manga in Spain, when the players will be allowed to return to their friends and families before setting off for France. Gascoigne and the other players will be reminded that they are still on England duty.

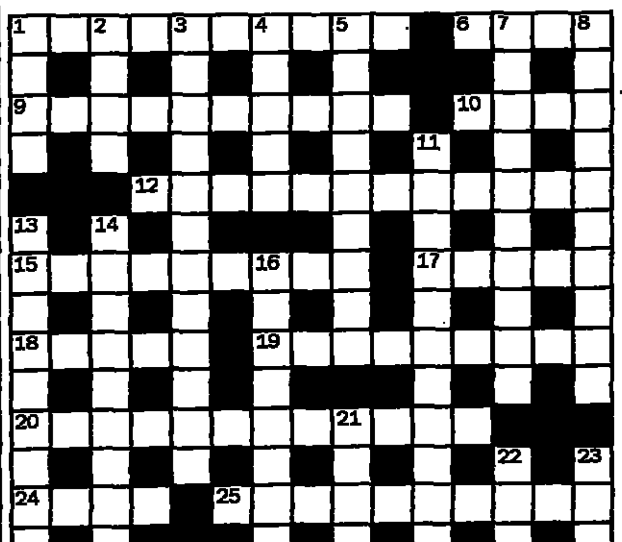
"He doesn't have to go to a night-club or a pub. He can do something else," Hoddle said. "If not, I'll take him home with me – and then I can go out for a good time."

Real's burden, page 31

The midfielder Paul Gascoigne is again the centre of attention during England's training session at Bisham Abbey yesterday Photograph: Reuters

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3615. Wednesday 20 May By Aquila



Tuesday's Solution

ACROSS
1 Air is released from this small chest-wound (7-3)
6 Took advantage of exercise at break of day (4)
9 Unpleasant watching Tony advise differently (5-5)
10 Dandy to live next to a university (4)
12 Go mad, being sectioned (12)
15 Stay with the German for balance (9)
17 Cow right to leave wild tundra (5)
18 Wader seen in the Gretna area (5)
19 Belief of many Indians in one who is forearmed, we hear (9)
20 Tulsa contest arranged for those seeking people with potential (6-6)
24 Where some take deliveries as part removals? (4)
25 Young feller in whom nothing was misrepresented (10)
26 Results of ambitions (4)
27 Earth-moving, pound a hunk? (5-5)

DOWN
1 To make an impression, shift! (4)
2 Surface imparted by some potters? (4)
3 End trying on clothes in snug (5-7)
4 Morning everybody gets up to see a beast of burden (5)
5 Looks back defiantly in unfashionable goggles (9)
7 Sea-shanties, possibly, in print? (5-5)
8 Two in a bar working at bank-holiday rates (6-4)
11 Tendency to follow many bison with hunch (4-8)
13 Father's retreat in the old days (6-4)
14 Bedlam rule over having a dome-shaped structure? (10)
16 Plunder from old Chester, say? (9)
21 Mum does not have a grand spare (5)
22 Celebrity in street, a redhead (4)
23 Uppish type no longer a shoemaker (4)

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France go-ahead for ticketless fans

THE Football Supporters' Association yesterday rejected the Government's advice for supporters not to travel to the World Cup finals in France without a ticket. The Government had warned fans not to travel if they did not have a valid ticket from either the Football Association or through the telephone hotline.

However, the FSA said it was unrealistic to expect supporters not to travel and said it would be giving advice on the pitfalls of buying black market tickets. They denied that this approach was likely to cause problems and told the Government it should have consulted them before launching its "no ticket, don't travel" campaign.

The FSA will be operating its mobile "Fans Embassy" mini-bus to follow England supporters around France giving advice and assistance and liaising with the local authorities. Kevin Miles of the FSA, who will staff the mini-bus, said: "I think there is a tiny minority of so-called fans who use football as a focus for organising violence. I think the police have that situation under control. I don't think our role is to act as a ticket agency but we will give people advice about what the dangers are."

Fans' hotline: 0870 6060721. FSA Mobile Embassy: 0956 121314.

Pascoe picks up the baton for bankrupt British athletics

By Mike Rowbottom

BRITISH athletics, brought to its knees by bankruptcy last October, has picked itself up, dusted itself down and entrusted its commercial future to the expertise of Alan Pascoe.

Yesterday the former European and Commonwealth 400 metres hurdles champion explained how he had sold (for £5m) his 40 per cent stake in API, the sports marketing company he founded in 1984, in order to concentrate on running Britain's five annual televised meetings.

Pascoe, who will be assisted by the former British Athletic Federation promotions officer, Ian Stewart, will stage events and arrange sponsorships through a new company, Fast Track. Although he will receive the commission for bringing sponsors into the sport, the meetings themselves will be organised on a non-profit basis. Any profits will be ploughed back into the sport.

Dave Moorcroft, chief executive of the interim body UK Athletics '98, said that the commercial rights to the sport had been secured permanently by paying the administrators currently overseeing the sport a sum of £400,000. This money, which came out of a British team sponsorship by Reebok, has secured ultimate control over the commercial operation for the main administrative body in British athletics. With this safeguard in place, they have contracted out the operation to someone who has worked in that area with success for more than a decade.

It was also confirmed yesterday that an agreement has been reached with the AAA of England that the AAA Championships will be a combined UK trials for at least the next four years. UK Athletics '98 and Fast Track will work in partnership with Channel 4 who will remain the television partner for the next three years at least.

While Pascoe faces the commercial challenge, Moorcroft is half-way through a wide-ranging exercise at club level to decide the sport's best future structure. "We're determined 1998 will mark the relaunch of Britain's main Olympic sport," Moorcroft said.

Pascoe sees his task as creating what he describes as a "re-branding" of the sport. "Sometimes I think we are so close to athletics that we forget how strong it is in relation to other sports in this country."

But while Pascoe and Moorcroft look to the future, the creditors of a sport which revealed debts of £2m last year are still waiting for any money to be released. The Federation's headquarters in Birmingham is on the brink of being sold for around £250,000, but the one remaining problem for the administrators is legal action being taken by Diane Modahl, who is attempting to sue the Federation for a reported £750,000 after a successful appeal against a doping ban.

Overall, however, there is a feeling of optimism in British athletic circles. With the Amateur Athletic Association, who many have regarded as a reactionary body, now maintaining that they are on board the Moorcroft road show, the sport appears to be pulling together for the first time in years.

Pascoe's plan, page 28

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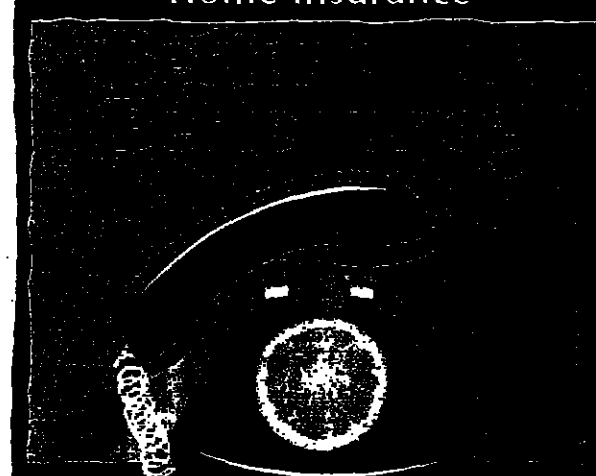

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